

THE HYDE PARK MEETING.

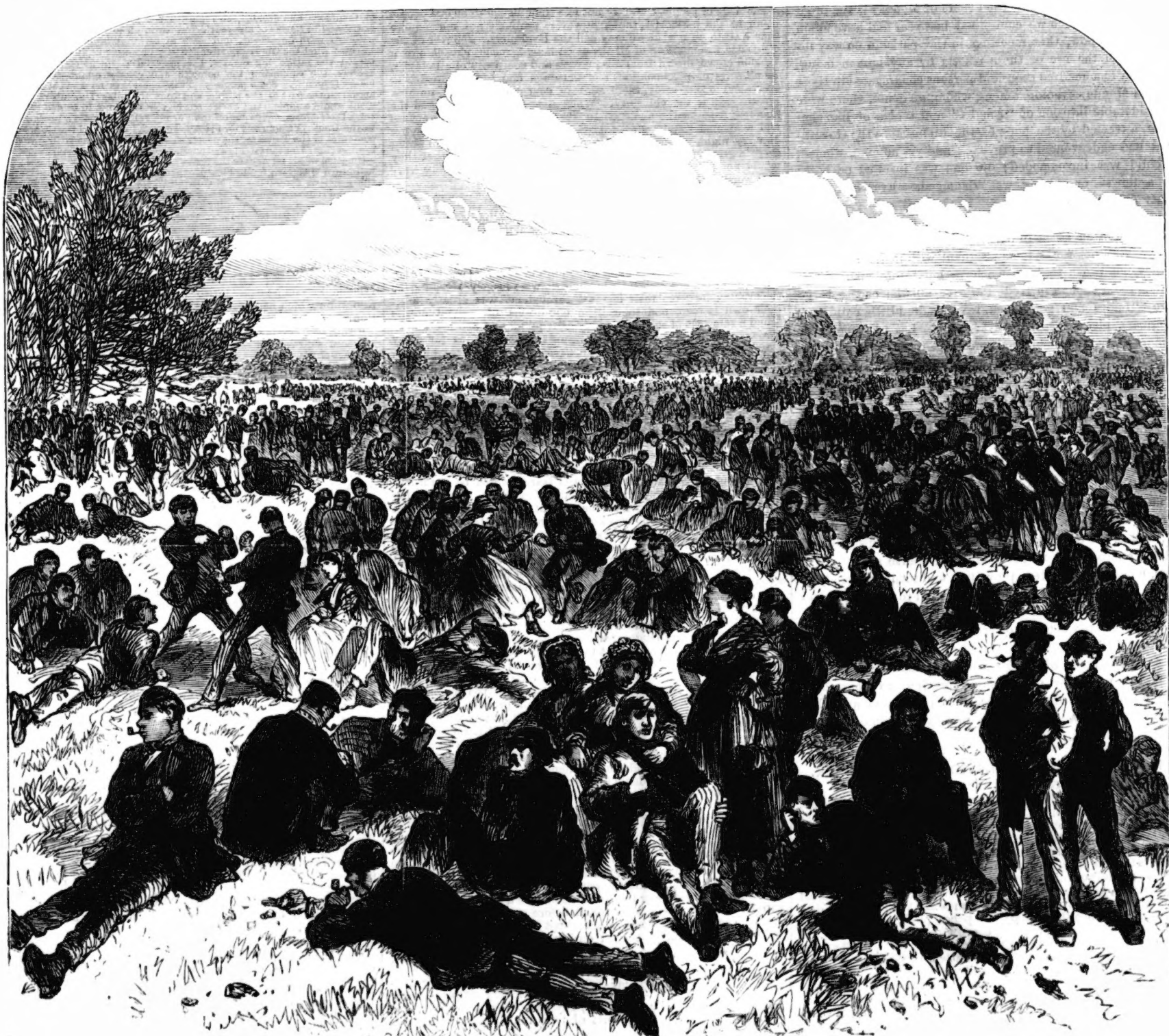
If success justifies boldness, Mr. Beales and his colleagues are amply justified. They have greatly dared, and they have been successful. The Leaguers have held their meeting in Hyde Park, and nobody and nothing has been injured—except the reputation of Ministers, who have reaped a very considerable measure of contempt. The Government, in abstaining from interference, acted wisely at the last; but, then, what is to be said of all their previous conduct? They knew ever since July of last year, if not before, that there was no illegality in holding a meeting in the public parks; and yet they concealed that knowledge. They could have had no intention to prevent the meeting of Monday, and yet they dared to say that such a meeting was “not permitted.” By what right could the Earl of Derby and his colleagues (we include them all, for we refuse to make Mr. Walpole the scapegoat of the Government) prevent that against which they knew there was no law? Conservatives talk much of Constitutionalism, and assume that they are the only men in the country who respect

the Constitution; and yet the leaders of the Conservative party—the responsible Ministers of the Crown—went as far as they dared in violation of law, and, therefore, of the Constitution; for Constitutionalism, if it means anything, means government according to law.

The Cabinet, moreover, must have known—for they had had experience in London and all over the country—that Englishmen can meet in public, whether in the open air or under cover of a roof, without any danger of disturbance, if not illegally interfered with; and yet they were foolish—or malicious—enough to declare that violation of the law was imminent, did all they could to invite such a violation, and accumulated masses of soldiers and police—foot, horse, and artillery—in the immediate neighbourhood of the meeting, and almost, if not actually, in view of the assembled populace. By their proclamation, or notice, or warning, or whatever they please to call it, and the silly fears and wild talk they encouraged in the press and elsewhere, they invited the presence, as they did last year, of a mass of persons whose

main pleasure in life and happiest scene of action is a row. If all this was not conduct calculated to provoke a breach of the peace, we know not what could be. A similar course, carried further and into still more active illegality, did produce disturbances last year; and would have done so on this occasion also, had it been persevered in.

This was the apprehension under which we wrote last week, and our apprehensions were fully justified by past experience of the folly or criminality of Lord Derby's Government and its supporters. We rejoice that the Hyde Park meeting passed off quietly; but we owe no thanks to Ministers for that, and are entitled to grieve that power should be in the hands of men capable of bringing government and all constituted authority into disgrace. The policy of the Cabinet seems to be akin to that of Dogberry. Quoth that sapient guardian of the peace in his charge to the watch—“You are to comprehend all vagrom men; you are to bid any man stand, in the Prince's name!” “How, if he will not stand?” “Why, then take no note of him, but let him go; and presently



THE REFORM DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK: WAITING.

call the rest of the watch together, and thank God you are rid of a knave." Mr. Walpole and his colleagues thought by bluster to stay the Leaguers from entering Hyde Park, but, finding they would not be stayed, let them go; and we daresay wish devoutly they were rid of all such knaves. The Ministers have brought disgrace upon authority, if not upon law, and made it supremely contemptible and ridiculous—a thing to be profoundly regretted by all Englishmen who love their country and take pride in her institutions. Beside this unhappy result the reputations of individuals and the triumphs of parties are of small account; and we would willingly see a dozen Cabinets perish rather than the dignity of authority and the law-abiding instincts of the British people should be impaired. Mr. Beales and the Leaguers have triumphed, and we are glad of their triumph, because it vindicates a popular right; but we almost grudge the price at which their victory has been obtained, because it may be drawn into a precedent of evil influence hereafter.

Out of evil comes good, and the circumstances attending the demonstration of Monday teach some lessons which may, to a certain extent, compensate for the mischievous conduct of the Government. The opponents of popular liberty, open or concealed, must now be sensible, whether they acknowledge it or not, that the cause of order has nothing to fear from assemblages of free Englishmen, met to claim and discuss what they deem their rights. We are still of opinion that these monster demonstrations are not, as a rule, of much service to the popular cause, and that there are other and more effective ways of attaining the end their promoters have in view. But it has been proved that they can be held without danger, and that the silly cry of intimidating society, overawing Parliament, and so forth, is a mere bugbear, a cunning device of the enemy, and has no foundation in fact. If the opponents of Reform are capable of being taught, let them learn these lessons among others from the events of Monday: that they have no real reason to distrust their fellow-citizens of even the humblest ranks; and that mutual confidence among Englishmen is the best bond of society and the best guarantee for respect for law and the rights of all. We hope they may now realise the fact that this is England, and not—well, some other countries we could name, in which fear alone commands obedience to law, deference to authority, and respect for person and property.

Another thing elicited by the events of Monday is the proof of the fact, for which we contended last year and have again insisted upon now, that meetings in the parks in no way interfere with the use of these resorts by any human being. From fifty to a hundred thousand persons congregated in Hyde Park on Monday evening, among whom, no doubt, there were a considerable infusion of "roughs" and others of like character, attracted by the hope of the disturbance the Government had endeavoured to provoke; and yet no man, woman, or child was incommoded; no one was insulted or hurt; not a flower or a twig was damaged. Everybody had plenty of room to move about in; ladies and gentlemen walked and rode through the crowds; even nurserymaids wheeled children about in perambulators undisturbed and in safety. Are not these facts pregnant with instruction? and do they not prove that, as we have heretofore maintained, there is room enough in Hyde Park for all who choose to go there—"ladies and gentlemen, invalids, and little children," Reformers, pleasure-seekers, every one? Let us, then, hear no more nonsense talked about meetings interfering with the legitimate uses of the parks or the enjoyment of those who go there.

Great stress is being laid by certain parties upon the fact that large numbers of persons offered themselves as special constables to preserve the peace on Monday, and Conservatives assume that all these persons are of their way of thinking in politics. But let them not deceive themselves in this. All who signed the memorial to Government against the meeting, or took the oath as special constables, are not enemies of Reform. They are only friends of order, as we are; and as the Government had proclaimed a disturbance, and had endeavoured to provoke it, of course something of panic, however unfounded, prevailed, and men were ready to repress disturbance if it should occur, and to take the places of the regular police in those parts of the city which had been unnecessarily denuded of protection. But even supposing that all the 16,000 memorialists and all the special constables are Conservatives, what are they to the numbers who assembled peaceably on Monday evening, as they have done on hundreds of other occasions in London and elsewhere? Why, a minority—a miserable minority, and "nothing more."

THE REFORM DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK.

GOVERNMENT PREPARATIONS.

THIS great meeting, the threat of holding which in defiance of the Government, and still more the Government preparations to prevent its being held, have kept the metropolis in a state of chronic alarm and agitation for the last month, was held on Monday evening, and passed off with the quietness and good order of a temperance meeting. Of course, in the face of such a happy result, it will be very easy to assert, now that all has gone off smoothly and well, that no other course was ever intended, and that the authorities never meant either to forbid the meeting or to prevent it. It is somewhat too late in the day, however, now, when the military and police precautions adopted or intended to be adopted to suppress the meeting are known, to announce that it was never contemplated to prevent it. The exact order of events is not likely to be soon known, though when it is the main features of the case will be nearly as follows:—Up to Thursday week the Government were firm in their intention to prevent the meeting. Additional troops were brought into London, and were in London on Monday night. The mounted constabulary

were drawn from the suburbs to the number of nearly 300, and arrangements made for massing together in the park nearly 5000 of the metropolitan police. The very programme of the methods of prevention to be adopted was laid down, and it was to the effect that if speaking were attempted the speakers should be arrested, and that, if this led to any disturbance, the police should repel force by force, and, in the event of failing, the troops should be called to give whatever assistance might be thought necessary. After the Cabinet on Friday week it was intimated that no ultimate decision as to the course of action should be considered as resolved upon. Even after the Cabinet of Saturday nothing was definitely made known for some time, though at that Council it was resolved that the meeting should not be opposed. At the same time—we suppose, as a measure of precaution—much of what may be called the defensive arrangements was adhered to on Monday. It was decided that the police were not to appear in greater numbers than is usual in the park, the only alteration being that the constables, instead of walking singly, patrolled at long intervals here and there in pairs. In fact, at the first glance the police seemed to be fewer than usual in the park. The mounted police, in troops of fifties, were stationed round the inclosure at various points which it is needless to particularise, but all so posted as to enable the whole force of mounted men to converge upon any part of the park within five minutes after an alarm was given. Very strong detachments of foot constables were also similarly disposed, so that in fifteen minutes at the most about 3500 men could have been brought to any part of the inclosure. In the little dell where the police station and barrack in the park itself are situated, on the road to the magazine, a thousand constables, under the orders of the chief superintendents, were held in reserve. The barrack was made the headquarters of the police force, and here were Sir Richard Mayne and Sir Thomas Henry, with the Deputy Commissioners, Captains Harris and Labalmondière, and the chiefs of the A division, Messrs. Walker and Kittle. This force, however, though strong enough in itself, was still stronger in the supports it could command and depend upon. A part of a regiment of hussars, having been brought in from Hounslow, was stationed near the park and in the Royal Mews. A strong detachment of Life Guards was at Knightsbridge, while another was under cover near the end of Park-lane. The Horse Guards (Blue) were in readiness to move at a moment's notice from Regent's Park, and the Guards were kept to their barracks in anticipation of any emergency. Behind the police barrack in the park itself is a very pretty inclosure, known as the Wood-yard. It is a kind of orchard-garden, with a rambling, old-fashioned sort of farmhouse building. Here a regiment of the Guards was placed, under the command of the Hon. Colonel Keppel. Anything more picturesque than the rough picnic sort of bivouac which the soldiers made among the trees can scarcely be imagined. Here, too, were mounted orderlies, superintendents of police on horseback, officers passing continually to and fro. This spot was, as we have said, the headquarters, and though from the outside scarcely more than a dozen sentries and police were to be seen, yet all within this quiet-looking inclosure was warlike in its every aspect. Altogether, more than 10,000 men, police and military, were kept ready to move and close in upon the park within half an hour's notice; yet, as it turned out, the whole meeting passed over quietly, without the slightest disturbance worth mentioning, or without more than a dozen policemen being at any one time seen upon the ground.

THE ASSEMBLAGE AND ITS DEMEANOUR.

Of the meeting or demonstration, or whatever the League may choose to call it, it is really difficult to say much. It was a vast assemblage of people, certainly not less than 40,000 to 50,000 people being in the park. Of these, however, probably not much more than a tenth were what we may call the Reformers. The rest of the concourse was made up of all the usual heterogeneous elements of a London crowd, drawn from all quarters and composed of all classes. As all sorts of proclamations and warnings had been addressed to spectators to keep away, there were, of course, an unusual number present. It is the old story. When a theatre takes fire and the manager requests the audience to keep their seats, a panic ensues and a general "stampede" takes place. So in Hyde Park, on Monday night, as the public were requested to abstain from going there, a great many assembled, evidently under the belief that they would not have been forbidden unless there was something very well worth seeing.

Thus it came to pass that by five o'clock there were some 20,000 or 30,000 spectators scattered over the inclosure, the great mass being collected near the Marble Arch. A fair proportion of these belonged to the class popularly known as "roughs." These lay about in great groups all over the grass, either fast asleep, playing pitch and toss, or laughing and singing. Rough enough they were, in appearance, in language, and sometimes in manner; but it is only fair to add that, even when their numbers were largely recruited as the evening drew on, their conduct throughout was orderly after their own fashion, and their little ebullitions of animal spirits found a safe vent in such horse-play as tripping one another up, or throwing the tattered caps of their nearest neighbours as far away from them into the crowd as possible. Many ladies were present, and nurserymaids seemed to have come with no other object than to wheel whole squadrons of perambulators through the thickest parts of the crowds. Many gentlemen and ladies, too, were there on horseback, and took advantage of the openings made in the railings, through which the cavalry could be called upon to clear the ground, to canter over those parts of the grass which are usually allotted to pedestrians. Of the gathering itself there is little more to say except that as the time for the meeting drew near the numbers in the inclosure vastly increased, but the whole assemblage partook far more of the character of a great fair than what was feared would be a formidable political demonstration. The only blood shed was from the head of a little boy who got in the way of the votaries of "three throws a penny," and who was knocked over by the blow of a heavy stick. There were acrobats, cardsharps, ballad singers without number, who howled forth such mongrel verses about Reform and Walpole as made one wish more ardently than ever for a settlement of this tedious question. There were some German bands, all large, all equally discordant, and out of time and tune in the performances. One of these itinerant companies, too indolent to carry their own instruments, had hired a man to bear them all slung about him, and the extraordinary appearance he presented, like a mediæval chandelier, created shouts of laughter wherever he went. There was the same hurried rushing from point to point without purpose or object, and the running of half a dozen in one direction was the signal for a regular rush of 3000 or 4000 to the same quarter. On two occasions, when the police were passing, some of the incorrigible gamins of the metropolis got up hisses and groans, which soon spread fast, and as the police went on without noticing either a few stones were thrown. As these missiles fell harmlessly near the constables they at once turned coolly round and walked back through the crowd which was following them, and this quiet instance of their good humour and pluck at once led to their being cheered vehemently. After this little incident (almost the only one of the day) the few constables in the park were as little noticed as they in turn noticed the crowd. Before six almost all the men in uniform were drawn in, and only the detectives in plain clothes remained to watch the pickpockets. How little the services even of these were required may be guessed from the fact that only three thieves were apprehended, and one of these was taken by a person in the Reform procession. A little after six the members of the different Reform detachments began to enter the park. There was no attempt at processions, except in one or two instances where a banner or two were carried, and even these were furled before entering by the Marble Arch. The men of Clerkenwell alone kept their red flag, surmounted with the cap of liberty, hoisted during all their small part in the proceedings.

THE MEETING.

Shortly before half-past six the proceedings of the evening commenced. The arrangements to be made were very simple—merely to choose ten platforms, or, rather, sites, from which to speak, and ranging in a circle from the belt of trees round eastward towards

Park-lane and the Marble Arch. As soon as these were chosen, placards with huge numerals were held aloft in accordance with the programme, and round these the crowds at once collected. The audiences round each varied very much, Nos. 1, 4, and 2 being the popular centres; and the instant the crowd had gathered round the speaking began. Unlike most simple arrangements, however, those for the oratorical part of the demonstration had two grave defects. At the stations where the speakers were not of weight or popularity few assembled, and fewer still seemed to care to listen. At the other points we have indicated, on the contrary, the crowd was so dense and large that not half could hear anything at all. The stations, too, were much too closely planted; and thus it often happened that when one audience was striving to listen its nearest neighbour was cheering another speaker vociferously. It was, of course, impossible, under such circumstances, to hear all that passed at any point. Generally, however, the addresses may be characterised as being rather "strong," and what is termed "full-flavoured" in their expressions of delight at the victory of the Reform League over the Government on the park question. All, however, inculcated more or less strongly the necessity of maintaining the most perfect order throughout the whole of their proceedings, even until every man had reached his own home. At twenty-five minutes past six a long stream of people was seen approaching a large tree situated a little to the west of the walk leading from Apsley-gate to the Marble Arch. Here it was understood that the No. 1 "platform" would be placed; and though there was no platform in the general sense of the term, its place was supplied by a circular seat, which surrounds the tree to which we have referred. At half-past the hour precisely Mr. Beales arrived, accompanied by the O'Donoghue, M.P., president of the Irish Reform League, and Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson. The party was received with tremendous cheering, the audience then numbering 10,000 or 12,000 persons; and in a few minutes the meeting was reduced to order, when

Mr. Beales proceeded to deliver his address. Speaking to those whom he saw around him as friends and fellow-countrymen, he said he had no wish to indulge in any vain boasting upon the occasion, but he congratulated them upon the character of the present meeting. He might congratulate them and himself upon the fact that their work was finished as regarded the parks and the right of the people to hold political meetings. That work was commenced some three years ago, when they overcame all resistance to their assembling on Primrose-hill to protest against the expulsion of the illustrious Garibaldi out of England. That work was continued till all the contemplated opposition to holding meetings in Trafalgar-square was counteracted, and it was now terminated in Hyde Park by the discovery made at last by the Government that he and those who thought with him were acting legally, while the Government were acting in antagonism to the law. But they must take care that the work was not rendered fruitless by the bill now before Parliament; they must be watchful of that attempt to impair their privileges. Mr. Walpole had declared on Friday that he (Mr. Beales) had admitted the legal right of the Government to exclude the people from the parks; he had never admitted any such statement. He always contended against that doctrine, and always held that one of the uses to which the parks should be devoted was the holding therein of political discussions regarding political rights. The meeting before him was constituted in accordance with all the appeals which he had made, and was a complete and honourable refutation to the slanderous imputations so shamefully promulgated, and the unwelcome fears so recklessly expressed that it could not be held without riot, disorder, and injury to person and property. Such attacks were unworthy of the country and disgraceful to its national character. If there were evil spirits, as there always would be, who were waiting to avail themselves of opportunities for plunder, let them be put down by the proper authorities, or by the hands of the people themselves. An array of police and special constables such as was contemplated was contemptible and ridiculous. He could not congratulate them on the present state of the Reform question. That he and those who acted with him had done some good was proved by the withdrawal of Lord Grosvenor's amendment, and by the fact that a majority of 81 in the House of Commons had decided, as regarded the present measure, against two years' and in favour of one year's residence. The other amendments to be proposed were important, and were to be strenuously insisted on. They affected what the Government called the principle of their bill—they concerned the ratepaying clauses, the personal payment of rates by householders, the equalising the borough and county qualifications, and the lodger franchise. Some people said that there was no want of any further action on the part of the people, and that the Liberal members of Parliament would complete the work; but he told them not to be deceived, not to relax their efforts, not to put off their armour till the battle was won. He was in the House of Commons on Friday week and witnessed the sneers and the contempt of the Tories for the people's cause. He had, he wished to say, the highest regard for the talents and character of Mr. Gladstone, and the warmest estimation of his services to the State and his sympathy for Reform; but he had heard with far greater pleasure than any words of that great statesman the generous utterances of Mr. Bright. He (Mr. Beales) told them to be firm and resolved, and they would soon have the reform they required by a real and not a mock representation of the people. The only resolution which would be put before them would be proposed by the president of the Irish Reform League. The O'Donoghue had been with him from the beginning in his determination to hold the meeting according to law, and according to law it had been summoned and constituted.

The O'Donoghue then presented himself, and was received with great enthusiasm. Addressing those around him as citizens of London, he said he came forward with great pleasure to propose the resolution which had been intrusted to his advocacy. The resolution ran thus:—

"That this meeting, while still adhering to registered and residential manhood suffrage, protected by the ballot, as the only really sufficient measure of Reform in the representation of the people, with satisfaction the withdrawal, last Thursday evening, of Lord Grosvenor's proposed amendment, and the majority of eighty-one on the same evening against the two years' residence clause in the Government Bill, and earnestly calls upon the House of Commons to make that bill a more full and honest measure for the extension of the franchise by expunging from it the ratepaying clauses equalising the borough and county franchise on the principle of household suffrage, and introducing a provision giving the vote to lodgers, or else reject that bill altogether."

The O'Donoghue spoke at some length in support of the resolution, which was then seconded and carried unanimously, as was a declaration in identical terms at each of the other platforms.

THE FINISH.

At a little before eight o'clock most of the meetings began to disperse, and the crowd to quit the park in a quiet and orderly manner. In some cases, where the stations were quitted early, speakers not named in the programme took the places of the official orators, and held forth for a time; but the interest had died away, and none could retain their audiences long, even where in one case the speaker was a lady, and declaimed with singular vehemence about the rights of woman. As the crowd from one of the stations was leaving, one of the reformers seized a pickpocket who had taken a gentleman's watch, and who succeeded in passing it away to a confederate in an instant. Others of the same gang made an effort to rescue the prisoner; but, with the aid of some detectives, who instantly came up, he was forced along in the direction of the police barracks. Thither an immense crowd followed, which, pressing in towards the narrow, funnel-shaped entrance between walls, made for a time a crowd so dense that it seemed as if some lamentable result would ensue. Yet the reformer and the detectives stuck to their prisoner, and the great mass of the concourse around them most earnestly cheered them in their endeavours to secure him. When at length he was forced through the pressure of the mass into the station, great cheers and clapping of hands arose on all sides at the success of the capture, and those who at first had attempted to rescue the prisoner at once slunk away. After this nothing worth notice occurred. Only five prisoners were apprehended, three for picking pockets, as we have said, and two for gambling. At ten o'clock the police and military were withdrawn; at eleven the park was quite clear, and all the streets adjoining even emptier than usual. No accident of any kind took place, so far as the police were able to ascertain.

Thus passed off what was thought would be the dreadful Reform demonstration of May 6. Exeter Hall meetings have often been more stormy.

THE DELEGATES of the Paris working tailors have intimated that, in consequence of the refusal of the Prefect of Police to permit another general meeting of the men on strike, all collective resistance to the masters has become impossible. The members of the local committees have therefore resigned their functions, and leave all the workmen their entire individual liberty of action to obtain from their employers whatever increase of pay they may be able to procure.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The camp at Châlons is to assemble on the 10th inst., instead of at the end of the month. No reason is assigned for the change of day.

The calling out of the reserves for active service and other military preparations have produced a slight reaction in the public feeling in Paris, and some fears of approaching war are entertained.

BELGIUM.

The military commission have resolved to propose that the annual contingent shall number 13,000 instead of 10,000 men. It has also agreed to the principle of exemption from military service by payment of a fixed sum to Government. This payment, however, will only be available previous to the drawing of the numbers which decide the liability to serve.

SPAIN.

A telegram comes from Madrid, marked "Official," stating that complete tranquillity prevails throughout Spain, "notwithstanding the efforts of certain parties to excite agitation."

ITALY.

The King of Italy having learnt that the health of his daughter, the Queen of Portugal, requires a change of climate, has invited her Majesty to visit Florence and be present at the marriage of Prince Amadeus.

Signor Ratazzi announced to the Chambers on Wednesday that the great Powers had decided to invite the participation of Italy in the London Conference, as an element of European order and peace. He hoped this news would be received with satisfaction. Signor Ratazzi also read a letter from the King, in which his Majesty declares he considers it his duty to give the first example of economy at a time of financial distress by renouncing annually the sum of four million lire of his civil list. [This announcement was received by the Chamber with loud cheers.] His Majesty expresses the hope that his example will be followed in all branches of the administration. A deputation was afterwards appointed to present the King with the thanks of the House.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussians are still complaining of the military preparations of France. A semi-official organ affirms that horses are being purchased and men called out on a scale to justify apprehension, and demands a prompt decision of the questions in dispute on the part of the Conference.

Strong opposition is being offered in the Chamber of Deputies to the adoption of the North German Constitution. The debates have been of an excited nature.

THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

We have this week two official declarations in reference to the Luxembourg question. Count Bismarck, in Berlin, and Marquis De Moustier, in Paris, have both stated the course which has been taken in reference to the matter. The utterances of both are pacific. In effect, they amount to this—that the Conference meets on the basis of the neutralisation of the grand duchy; but Count Bismarck adds that this neutralisation will not of necessity disavow Luxembourg from the Zollverein. The Marquis De Moustier's communication to the French Chambers does full justice to the efforts of England, Russia, and Austria in bringing about a settlement of the question without any rupture of the peace of Europe.

Fears being entertained of the disastrous effect which the dismantling of the fortress and the removal of the garrison would have upon the prosperity of Luxembourg, a petition, addressed to the president of the Conference of the Powers, is now being signed, soliciting that the neutralisation of the fortress should be effected by the annexation of the grand duchy to Belgium.

AUSTRIA.

The Croatian Diet was opened in Agram on the 1st inst. The Imperial Rescript read to the House declared the last Address of the Diet incompatible with the Pragmatic Sanction, and lays stress upon the unity of all the kingdoms belonging to the Hungarian Crown. His Majesty wishes the acceptance of the resolution of the Hungarian Diet, which sufficiently guarantees the autonomy of Croatia. The Rescript closes with a request that the Diet will speedily come to an agreement, and will dispatch a deputation to be present at the coronation of the King of Hungary at Pesth by the 15th inst.

THE RUSSIANS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

The Emir of Bokhara has gone to Samarcand, and, fearing an attack from the Russian forces, has ordered fortifications to be erected. He is said to have invited English co-operation for the reorganisation of his army, and has broken off relations with the Russian authorities. The relations of Russia with the Khan of Khokan are of an extremely friendly character.

THE UNITED STATES.

A resolution to offer the mediation of the United States between the belligerents in Mexico, and also between France and Prussia, has been introduced in the Senate and laid on the table.

The Virginia Circuit Court has granted the habeas corpus to produce Mr. Davis on the 13th inst.

The Washington Criminal Court has sentenced Sanford Conover to ten years' penitentiary for perjury during the trial of the assassination conspirators.

The counsel for Surrat has appealed for an immediate trial, declaring his readiness and ability to establish the prisoner's innocence. The district attorney has announced that the prosecution will not be ready until June 18.

Admiral Farragut has been appointed to the command of the Mediterranean squadron.

A great strike in support of the principle of eight hours' labour has taken place at Chicago.

Hostilities with the Indians in Nebraska have commenced.

MEXICO.

Imperial accounts from Vera Cruz, via Havannah, report the recapture of Puebla by the Imperialists, had previously been seized by the Liberals, after a fight in which the Imperialists lost 1000 men, Porfirio Diaz 2000. After the surrender, Diaz executed a large number of the Imperial officers. Marquez is reported to have been defeated by Diaz while attempting to reinforce the garrison of Puebla.

According to advices received by the Mexican Minister at Washington, the Liberals have captured Queretaro. Miramon is said to be dead.

General Diaz, one of the Republican leaders, has put to death six Imperial Generals and sixty others, in retaliation for similarly illegal acts which he lays at the door of the Maximilian party.

CHINA.

A telegram from Shanghai gives an alarming account of the movements of the rebels in the north of China, and great apprehensions are felt for the safety of Nankin.

EXTENSIVE FORGERIES.—On Monday one of the most gigantic cases of forgery of modern times came before the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. The persons implicated are a London merchant named Edgeley, and a Frenchman named Devillers, who has lately been residing at Bromley, in Kent, and who was arrested at Dieppe. The bills of exchange said to be forged and issued represent not less a sum than £108,000, of which sum it is alleged the Leeds Banking Company (which lately suspended payment) has been defrauded. The case was heard at some length against the Frenchman, and adjourned. Edgeley is not yet in custody.

THE CROPS IN THE EAST.—The wheats have much improved in appearance upon the good dry soils of Essex, but upon the heavy stiff loams and the thin-skin clays and gravels they have changed to rather a yellowish colour. Spring corn, with but few exceptions, is turning out well in Essex, and the clover crop also promises well. The weather has been favourable for the light lands of Norfolk, which look particularly well this spring. The wheats are a good plant, and are growing fast. On Monday and Tuesday the weather was extremely fine in the eastern counties, and the country presented a charming appearance.

THE QUEEN AND THE LUXEMBURG QUESTION.

THE *Journal de Paris*, a journal just started under the management of M. Weiss, formerly of the *Débats*, and M. E. Hervé, of the *Courrier du Dimanche*, gives certain particulars, on the authority of letters from a London correspondent, relative to the influence exerted by Queen Victoria in the Luxembourg dispute. The Queen wrote to the Emperor Napoleon before writing to the King of Prussia, and used the arguments most calculated to divert him from the warlike projects ascribed to him by public opinion. The *Journal de Paris* says:—"This letter, impressed with the religious and almost mystic sentiments which predominate in the Queen's mind, particularly since the death of Prince Albert, seems to have made a deep impression on the Sovereign who, amid the struggles of politics, has never completely repudiated the philanthropic theories of his youth; and who, on the battle-field of Solferino, covered with the dead and the wounded, was seized with an unspeakable horror of war."

The Emperor replied in a letter which, according to the London correspondent of the *Journal de Paris*, had the best effect on Queen Victoria and on her principal advisers, for he protested against the schemes attributed to him, and against all idea of territorial aggrandisement for the advantage of France. He, moreover, declared, "with a great elevation of language and ideas," the complete disinterestedness of his policy on the recent occasion. He said, however, that the question, placed as it was, had become one of national honour to France; but he left it clearly to be understood that when once settled—that is, when the fortress of Luxembourg was evacuated—France would be disposed to give up all thought of aggrandisement. It was on receiving these conciliatory declarations that the Queen addressed herself to the King of Prussia. The family ties which unite the two reigning houses, the personal sympathies which, as the *Journal de Paris* says, Queen Victoria, in opposition to some of her advisers, has always shown for the cause of Germany since the beginning of the question of the duchies, are known; but, in any circumstances, her Majesty's sentiments would have made a serious impression on the Court of Berlin. By a lucky coincidence, the letter written to King William on the present occasion reached him at the moment when M. Bismarck experienced a deception the more painful that it was unexpected—namely, that Russia was not so favourable to the projects of the Prussians as he had reason to suppose. Prince Gortschakoff had clearly manifested the intention of the Russian Government not to engage itself with any of the parties in the commencement of the war, but reserved itself to intervene at a later period, whenever the moment seemed opportune. This fact made M. Bismarck seriously reflect on his situation. The counsels of the Queen of England found not only King William but his Minister in a disposition less warlike than people imagined, and it was then, with the prompt decision which characterises him, that M. Bismarck suddenly modified his policy in a pacific sense, though probably he will astonish the world by some new change should circumstances favour him.

There is another fact communicated by the London correspondent of the journal alluded to, which it considers highly important. At the moment when the crisis occasioned by the Luxembourg question seemed certain to end in war, an understanding was come to between England, Denmark, Sweden, and Holland of a nature to be easily transformed into a treaty, and the object of which was to preserve the integrity of Holland against all danger from whatever quarter it should come; and the knowledge of this understanding was not without influence on the Paris and Berlin Cabinets.

HARVESTING OF CORN IN WET WEATHER.—The Council of the Society of Arts have resolved to offer the gold medal of the society and a prize of 50 gs. for the best essay on the harvesting of corn in wet seasons. The first part of such essay, after noticing the various systems at present adopted in damp climates for counteracting the effects of moisture upon corn in the field, and for avoiding such exposure in wet seasons by peculiar harvesting processes, should furnish a practical and analytical exposition of the best available means—1, whereby corn may be protected from rain in the field; 2, whereby standing corn may in wet seasons be cut and carried for drying by artificial process; 3, whereby corn so harvested may be dried by means of ventilation, hot air, or other methods; with suggestions for the storage both in the ear and after threshing; 4, whereby corn, sprouted or otherwise injured by wet, may be best treated for grinding or feeding purposes. The whole to be supplemented by a statement of practical results and actual cost of each system described, and authenticated estimates of any process proposed for adoption based upon existing but incomplete experiments. The above requisitions are given suggestively, not to bind the writer to the order or to limit the treatment of the subject, provided it be kept within the scope of practical experience and utility. The essays must be sent in to the secretary of the Society of Arts on or before Jan. 1, 1868. The council reserve the power to withhold the whole or part of the prize in the event of no essay being, in the opinion of the judges, of sufficient merit.

SHORT WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—The Parliamentary return just issued showing the convictions of tradesmen for using unjust weights, measures, or balances, relates to a quarter of the year ending June 24 last, which may be taken as a sample of the whole year. In the greater part of the kingdom there seems to be no very strict inspection. There was not a single conviction in many large towns; among them Dover, Exeter, Gravesend, Hastings, Leeds, Newcastle, Nottingham, and York. In Norwich there were but 2; in Bristol, 3; in Wolverhampton, 5; in Birmingham, 15; in Manchester, 14; in the city of London, 23; in Liverpool, 32. If we take a single county, Staffordshire, we see that if we suppose the absence of convictions to imply innocence, we must believe that all the dishonesties nestles in one district. In the Burton-on-Trent division there was 1 conviction; in the Leek division, 2; in the Shenstone, Elford, and Rugby division, 3; but in the West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Walsall division there were 84. So also in the metropolis; there were only 12 convictions in St. Marylebone, 31 in St. Pancras, 33 in Finsbury, none in Paddington or the Strand division, but cross the water to the Newington division, and there are 225, and with heavy penalties, several as high as £5. It is rare to find a £5 penalty inflicted anywhere else in the kingdom. There was one at Salisbury on a marine-store dealer, but he had above thirty deficient weights. Among his 56 lb. weights was one which was above an ounce too heavy; but, *per contra*, he had two other 56 lb. weights each of them above 7 oz. too light. These deficiencies are a grievous tax upon the poor and a disgrace to the tradesmen. Considering the variety of practice which appears to prevail in the inspection, the arrangement which has been made in Bath seems to be worthy of more general adoption. In that city all persons using weights and measures are required to bring them once a year to the inspector's office to be examined and stamped; and persons complying with this regulation are not summoned by the inspector if all the deficiency that he finds in his intermediate visits is the mere result of wear and tear; but the weights or measures are readjusted (not by the inspector) without further trouble or discredit to the tradesman. In Bath there were but seven convictions in the quarter; but 1170 weights and measures examined at the office were incorrect, apparently from mere ordinary usage, and were readjusted and restamped.

JUVENILE BALL AT MARSH FLEURY'S.

A JUVENILE ball costumé was given last week at the residence of Marshal Fleury, Master of the Horse to the Emperor Napoleon. Of its kind, this entertainment was a good specimen of a sort of thing that has lately become very fashionable in the French capital, albeit such affairs partake somewhat of the nature of a travesty—in more than the French sense of that word. A Paris correspondent, writing of this entertainment, says:—

"Nothing is more delicious and refreshing than a children's ball, when the dancers remain what they are—children. But nowadays children have vanished. From six months to five years old one designs to be a child; but as soon as five years have struck children are only pedants and old men. Young gentlemen not yet in their teens, but alarmingly foppish, scorn their sisters, and scold their mamma when they do not pronounce English perfectly well; *petites maîtresses*, five years old at the most, wear a lace mantilla, tie a *souppou* of bonnet with the experienced hand of an old coquet; criticise this and blame that with the immovable nature of a veteran journalist. Verily, there are no more children, they are only miniature old people. At Paris, instead of 'grave as a judge,' they say now, 'grave as a schoolboy;' in place of 'majestic as a queen,' they say 'majestic as a young miss at a boarding-school.' The children in Paris are now so serious that you would hesitate to offer them sweet things."

"En attendant the return of childhood, let us photograph the

fancy juvenile party above alluded to, given in the Caulaincourt wing of the Louvre Palace, which wing is the residence of General Fleury, first aide-de-camp and great equerry of his Majesty the Emperor Napoleon III. The idea of that ball, the splendour of which is without precedent in the annals of infancy, had been inspired by a true courtier feeling. The youthful Prince Imperial was to have been the hero of it, and it had been postponed from Carnival in the hope that the Prince would have completely recovered from his severe indisposition. But 'man proposes, and God disposes;' and our juvenile party was deprived of its Imperial attraction owing to the slow convalescence of the boy, whom his young friends the Fleurys, the Conneaus, the Murats, already call Napoleon IV. I repeat that there are no more children in Paris. Albeit, Masters Maurice and Adrien Fleury, habited in the suggestive uniform of gendarmes of Louis XV.'s reign, were posted, at eight o'clock, at the entrance of the drawing-room, their tricorne hats under their left arms, and received their young guests with the most perfect politeness. At the same entrance the heir apparent of the Master-General of the Post, the young Vandal, in the garb of a letter-carrier, handed to the guests on their arrival an almanack containing the bill of fare of the fête and illustrated by Cham, alias Comte de Noé—not a parvenu, this deplorable caricaturist of the *Charivari*. M. le Général and Mme. la Générale Fleury assisted their two children in doing honour to the guests. Mme. le Générale, standing at the right of the salons' entrance, kissed every comer on the right cheek; the General, posted on the left, had reserved to himself the left one. The invited came in proud, grave, stiff, and collected; evidently they had identified themselves with the quality that their coats or *pourpoints* had imparted to them for an evening. One stumbled on his rapier, another entangled his spurs in a hanging. As to the misses, they were completely at home under their fineries; and, as to their flirting,—well, Frenchmen say that flirtation is to fair ladies what valour is to heroes, both are innate.

"But to the guests. Among the *crème de la crème* were Ladies Sophie and Pasqueline de Metternich, the first dressed as a *vivandière* of Turcos, the other as a *cocodette* of the day. Mlle. Sophie, the sutler, made many conquests by her *désinvolture*; her sister killed many *cocodés* by her gracious way of making her long train whirl about, by her weeping-willow attitudes, by her dexterity in manipulating her microscopic fan. The stars of less magnitude were Mlle. d'Albiféra, metamorphosed into a white puss, Vandal into a letter-carrier, Marie de Verdière into a hussar, Janvier de la Mothe into Diana the huntress, Dolfus into an Irish bride, De Berkeim into a gipsy, Boiteille into Margherita, Espinasse into a shepherdess, Nunz into the maternal diamond casket worth £40,000, &c. As to the cavaliers, there were the young Prince Murat as Harlequin, Godefroy de la Tour d'Auvergne as a Castilian muleteer, Louis Conneau as a gage, Gaston de Frazelas as a toreador, Pierre de Bourgoing as a hussar of the first Republic, &c. The musicians wore pink dominoes.

"After several hours of dancing, polking, galloping, and cotillon-ing, there was an interlude, during which the real Fanfan Benoiton, the baby of the 'Fast Family,' who knows how to pick his father's patent-lock chest at the great jubilation of the clever financier, recited a *pochade* quite above his understanding, albeit with so much *entrain* and intellect that he was encored. Master V— was so very much enraptured with Fanfan that he ran a gallop *échevelé* with him. Fanfan, eight years old, is the son of an actor, and played some 200 times in the 'Benoiton Family.' Master V—, two years younger, knew that so well, that he said to his friends, 'Do not tell that I have danced with Fanfan Benoiton, mamma forbids me to mix with actresses.'"

"So much for the juvenile fancy ball of the General and Mme. la Générale Fleury. One of her guests pushed politeness so far as to call her 'Madame la grande Ecuyère.' 'Honi soit qui mal y pense;' for when the urchin was asked why he did so, he replied with a placidity which would have delighted even the honourable member for Nottingham, 'Why, we say, 'Madame la Maréchale,' 'Madame l'Ambassadrice,' and I thought that—'Enough,' said his mamma, abruptly; and she thought 'that child of mine promises to be one of the *enfants terribles* Gavarni excelled in sketching.'"

THE FASHIONS.

THE principal change which has taken place in the fashions during the past month is the adoption of short dresses for young ladies who have hitherto advanced at once from the scanty jupon of childhood to the flowing skirts of more mature age. This style of dress is distinguished by the name of costume. It is very pretty and effective made in foulard of two shades or in two contrasting colours. For a young girl of fourteen a jupon of blue foulard, with a full-plaited flounce at the bottom, may have a skirt of blue-and-black-striped foulard scalloped and bound with black. The upper skirt must be gored, so that the front may be plain and the plaits reaching from the sides to the back. This costume cannot be worn without crinoline, it having a very ungraceful appearance; but it must be very short, and should have a jupon under and over it, each in muslin, with plaited flounces edged with lace, much gored, and having scarcely more of amplitude than the crinoline itself. The length of the robe may be according to the taste of the wearer; but the jupon of the costume should just conceal the top of the bottine. We cannot hope to see short dresses generally worn; nor indeed does it appear to us a desirable change. It is not a costume becoming to every style of figure, as it requires for its successful adoption that the wearer be neither too tall nor too short, very thin or very stout. In order to meet this difficulty, many have retained the long skirts and looped them up with tippets, or have them tied loosely at the sides or back. The skirts are generally of the same material, the trimmings of two shades.

The materials for summer robes will be *poils de chèvre*; sultane, a very beautiful fabric made in mohair, but of so fine a texture that it resembles a silk gauze; the Pompadour sultane has fine silken stripes and small figures of all colours; others are brochés in a single tint, lilac, black, cerise, blue, green, but they all have a white ground. The most beautiful and expensive specimens of this elegant material, however, are those brochés with flowers, one of which, embroidered with heartsease, has been manufactured for the Empress of the French, and is called by her name. Many of the foulards are also very beautiful; the exhibition foulard may be said to be unequalled for beauty of design and colour, and forcibly resembles the ancient Chinese embroidered silks, while the foulard bouquetière brochés, with bouquets of flowers, and the foulard Patti, with bouquets of forget-me-not and foliage, are almost equally admirable.

The fashion of wearing basques and ceintures to simulate a casque has again revived; the basques may be scalloped or plain, but always trimmed, either with passementerie, or a satin cord, or with a wide jet fringe. A very wide ribbon, tied at the back with large bows, may be worn with these basques; for black dresses, the ribbon should be black, the ends embroidered with flowers or a design in gold; while for white or lighter materials the Iris ribbon will be found more suitable.

Paletots will be made of the same material as the dress, of black silk or of molleton; they are usually rather short and loose. Mantles are also worn of a circular shape, and may be of fancy cloth, molleton, or Indian cashmere, but never of the same material as the dress. The most beautiful *rotonde* may be composed of an Indian China crêpe shawl, and those who possess such a treasure will find an admirable opportunity for displaying this long-discarded article of dress, by altering it to a circular mantle, shawls being no longer admissible unless worn as a scarf; the black cashmere shawls so fashionable last summer are now transformed into paletots by those who desire to appear à la mode.

We will describe a few toilettes which may be useful to our readers as models. A grey mohair dress, of the Princess style, the skirt having a tunic cut in pointed tabs, trimmed with rouleaux of satin and fringe, and with a tassel at each point. The tunic is in five points, the back one longer than the others. The bottom of the skirt has a rouleau of satin at the edge; the body is round, and is trimmed with satin and fringe.

A costume of grey taffeta, both skirts of the same material; the under skirt has a plaited flounce of black silk, trimmed with passementerie and white beads. On the upper skirt is a piece crosswise; black silk, with similar ornaments. The body is low, and is worn with a chemisette, with sleeves.

A ball dress of mauve tulle, with a satin tunic of the same colour; the skirt ornamented with a rouleau of satin, edged with black. The tunic is scalloped, trimmed with satin, and edged with white blonde.

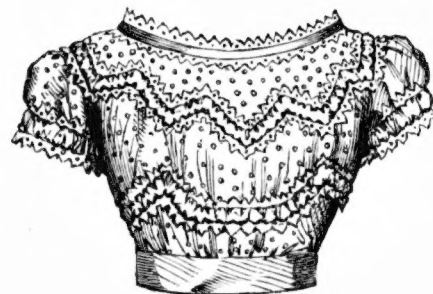
Velvet will no longer be used for bonnets, but will be replaced by straw, crape, tulle, and blonde. Satin, however, will be retained, as it forms one of the principal trimmings for dresses and paletots. Berries, bronzed leaves, birds, and insects of bright colours are much used for straw bonnets. For tulle, crape, or taffeta opal trimmings have replaced



trimmed with crosswise bands of violet satin; the robe is short, and is of violet poil de chèvre, caught up by bands of crosswise satin; the paletot, of the same material as the robe, is trimmed in the same pattern. Our readers will readily distinguish the pattern in which the satin bands are laid on the skirt and paletot; it is a very effective style of trimming, and will be found easy to reproduce.

The bonnet is made of violet crape, with pear pendants and small plumes of violet feathers. The last figure has an indoor dress of black silk, the seams are rounded at the bottom, and trimmed with a ruche of satin ribbon or taffeta. The body is ornamented with ruches and jet buttons with pendants.

We have included in our Illustrations a model of a low muslin body, with short puffed sleeves. The pattern is made of spotted muslin, and has puffings in the front, each puff covering a coloured ribbon



the crystal ornaments, and are softer and more becoming. A small bonnet of puffed lace, edged with rice straw, had an opal fringe, above which was a small wreath of daisies; strings of figured ribbon.

A straw bonnet was edged with jet, so as to imitate fine guipure. The back was crossed by a fall of lace forming strings, which were fastened under the chin by a rosette of green velvet with jet centre; over the chignon was perched a beautiful bird, resting on a bough of ponceau velvet. Bandeau of ponceau velvet and jet ornaments. We may mention that the strings of bonnets are narrower than they have been, and are often tied under the chignon, the floating brides of tulle or lace being fastened with a flower or ornament under the chin. Thus a bonnet of pink crape, bound with satin, was covered with lilies of the valley, with crystal drops, the strings of very narrow pink ribbon, and a voilette of blonde forming barbes at the side.

The first figure in our Engraving has a paletot of the present style. It is made in black poul de soie, and cut in points round the bottom, edged with pipings of satin and jet fringe; the seams have two pipings, one of satin, the other of the same material as the paletot. This pattern may be cut without points if desired, and will be equally pretty and fashionable.

The ball dress is of lilac tulle, the under skirt puffed at the bottom with six bouillonnées; an upper skirt, also of tulle, is raised on the left side by a very large tuft of white azaleas. A wreath of the same flowers falls from the waist at the right side and loops up the skirt; while the berthe and sleeves are ornamented with flowers to correspond. The third figure wears a jupon of violet taffeta,

and being edged with narrow embroidery. With this body may be worn the pretty fichus of spotted net or tulle which are so becoming and inexpensive. They may have long ends crossing at the back, or may be of the same pattern as the small zouave jackets without sleeves, or cut with a peplum skirt. The trimmings should be either of narrow velvet or ruches of taffeta. Loose sleeves may be worn with these fichus, and have a very graceful effect. Among the head-dresses we have selected will be found a fanchonnette of flowers trimmed with beads. The strings are formed of a wreath of flowers fastened under the chin. Another spring bonnet is of yellow straw, the edge turned up at the front and sides; in the front is a band or festoon of brown velvet, with amber grelots, at the side a yellow rose, and plume shading from amber to white. Amber strings with small brown figure at edge.

A third bonnet is of straw with edge forming a revers, at the side a rose with foliage; strings of green glacé ribbon.

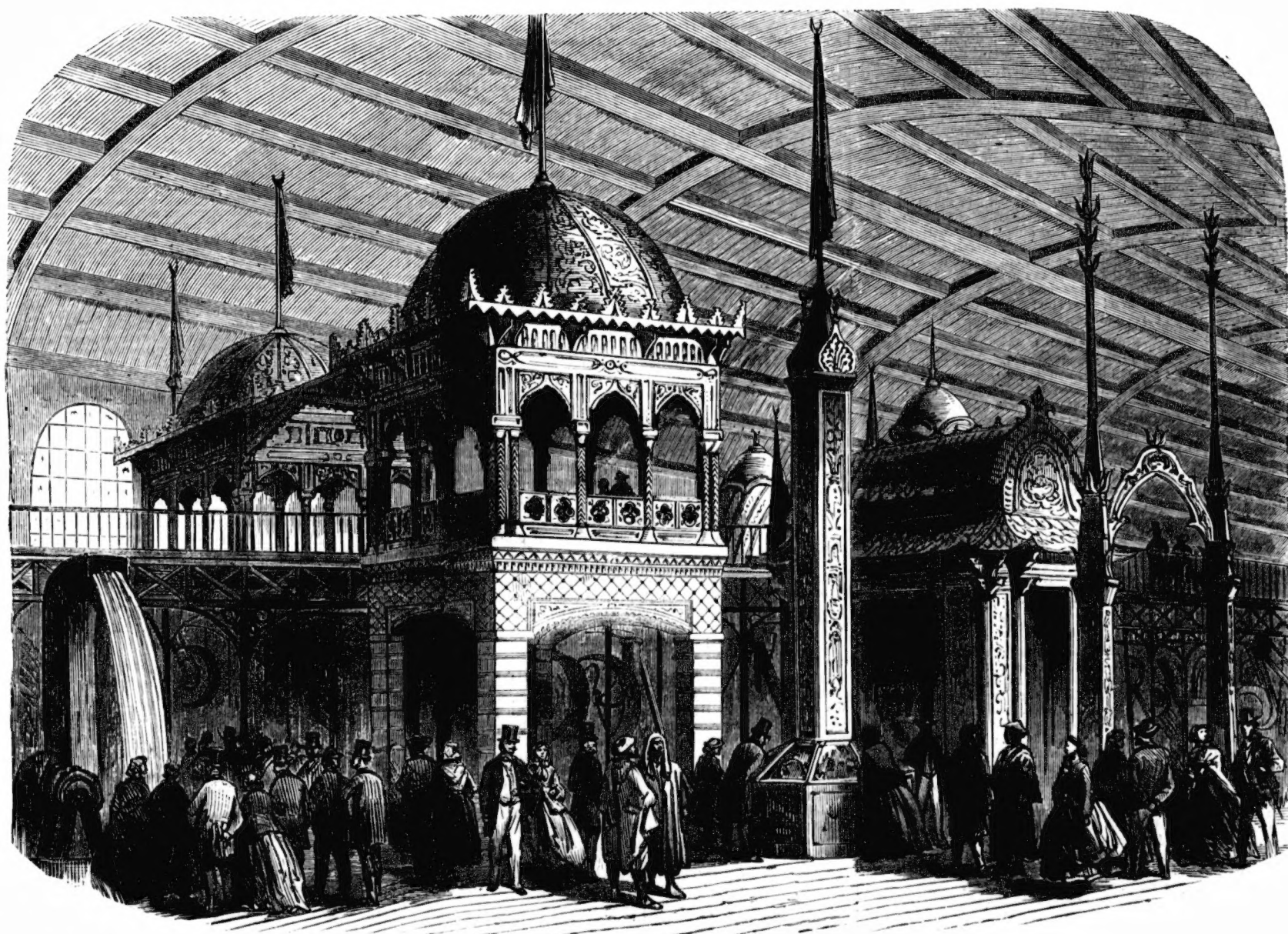
Another bonnet, almost flat and round, of white straw, is trimmed with black lace, and has a red rose placed in the front and at the back.

A bonnet of white tulle, with bouillonnées separated by bands of plaid velvet, was trimmed with ostrich feathers, and a flower to match the most prominent colour in the velvet.





JUVENILE BAL COSTUMÉ AT THE RESIDENCE OF MARSHAL FLEURY, PARIS.



THE UNITED STATES MACHINERY GALLERY AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—SEE PAGE 301.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 302.

A SENSIBLE SPEECH.

THE debate on Thursday, May 2, was sharp, short, and exceedingly important. The question was that the qualifying term of residence in boroughs should be reduced from two years to one year. Mr. Ayrton was the Liberal leader, *pro hac vice*, as the lawyers say; that is, in plain English, for this occasion only, and he did his work as he generally does whatever he undertakes—well. The chief characteristic of his speech deserves notice. He treated the question as a plain and practical matter of business, and kept it as much as possible out of the heated arena of party—arguing calmly, and saying nothing that could excite passion or angry recrimination. His object was not to punish his opponents, but to win their acquiescence; not to obtain a rhetorical triumph, but to get a division as soon as possible, and to obtain a majority. We have seldom seen an important business managed more adroitly, and Mr. Ayrton had his reward. The division came off before dinner, and the majority against the two years' residence was 81.

AN ANGRY MEMBER.

Mr. Bass, the great brewer, on April 13 voted in the majority against Mr. Gladstone's amendment, for which piece of treason against his leader he has been severely called over the coals, or, as we may say, sharply flogged, as most of the traitors to their party on that occasion have been. But, generally, these gentlemen have taken their punishment quietly, or even heroically, like old martyrs. But Mr. Bass writhed under the lash; and, indeed, ever since the division been in a state of fume; and of course he got flogged the more. It is always so. There is nothing like silent, impassive heroism, or, say, apparent insensibility. At a public school sensitive boys are always the worst treated by their fellows. There is no fun, you know, in thrashing a fellow who cannot feel; and men are but children of a larger growth. Had Mr. Bass been heroically silent at first the world would have soon forgotten him; but, unfortunately, he could not help crying out, and then, of course, he got it the more. Well, on that Thursday evening he had the imprudence to vent his sorrows in the House; but he did not get much consolation. The House listened decorously; for the House respects Mr. Bass, as all men do who know him; and when he retaliated upon Mr. Bright he was loudly cheered by the Conservatives, if he could get any comfort out of that. But, obviously, few felt any sympathy with his sorrows; and we venture to say that there was a general opinion that it would have been better if Mr. Bass had in private silently "burnt his own smoke." True, he aimed a blow scientifically enough at the hon. member for Birmingham, and was, as we have said, much applauded by the gentlemen opposite. But the blow did not tell; for, instead of wincing, Mr. Bright only smiled. The member for Birmingham has been so pounded in his time that it takes a very hard blow to produce a blister on his skin. And now we pass from this small, parenthetic episode. It was not very relevant to the matter in hand, but it amused us for a time. But now just a word. Think you, readers, that these gentlemen have quarrelled? Not a bit of it. We should not be at all surprised to learn that later in the evening they were quietly smoking the calumet of peace together. Quarrel upon such a trumpety question as this? no Englishman would think of it.

A DIVISION BEFORE DINNER.

Mr. Bright spoke after this; and, when he sat down, the House had got very full, and the members very impatient for a division. "A division before dinner on such a matter!" said we; "that is hardly likely." And when we saw the Solicitor-General rise, we concluded that we were in for a night's debate; but Sir John Karslake made but a short speech, and when after him neither of the leaders rose—only Mr. Denman, indeed—we then began to see the possibility of a speedy division; for we well knew that the hungry and impatient members would not allow Mr. Denman to prolong the debate. And so it was. As soon as he rose he was met with a really terrific blast of cries. At first Mr. Denman appeared determined to weary out the storm. He turned towards the bar, folded his arms, looked defiant, and bravely shouted out, "Honourable gentlemen are but wasting their time;" but it would not do. He sent a few words up to the reporters' gallery, when the storm occasionally lulled; but he had speedily to bottle up the greater part of his intended speech and succumb; and then, nobody else rising (who would dare to confront these angry, hungry, impatient gods?), Mr. Dodson rose, put the question, and the Committee at once divided; numbers—as our readers all know—Government, 197; Opposition, 278; majority, 81. Whew! what a majority! We knew that the Government would be beaten; but few if any thought that it would be beaten by such a majority as that. There was not, though, much enthusiasm displayed. The Secretary for India, Lord Stanley, was shut out. He had left the House, and was marching home to dinner, not dreaming that the division was imminent. Before he had got out of the building, however, the bells summoned him back; but, notwithstanding he ran up the stairs with all the speed he could put on, he was too late. When he was within five or six yards of the door it was banged to, with him on the wrong side. Five or six more strides, your Lordship, would have sufficed. But, too late!—too late! You cannot enter now. There is no power on earth can open that door when it is once closed.

HISTRIONICS.

When the door opened again the members began to rush away to dinner; but suddenly Disraeli rose, and the movement was arrested. "Order, order!" Mr. Dodson called out. "Order, order!" resounded through the House; and at once there was silence. What Disraeli said everybody now knows:—"After the grave division it is not in my power, without further consultation with my colleagues, to proceed with the bill." Ah! is that so? What can it mean? Abandonment of the bill? resignation of the Ministers? or dissolution? Some thought one thing, some another; but a sagacious friend of ours said, "Pook! It means neither. Mr. Disraeli knew that he would be beaten, and must have consulted his colleagues, and must have provided for this contingency. All that it really means is, that he intends to accept the decision; but he must do it theatrically, as his manner is—in a way 'suitable to the gravity of the occasion.'" And so it proved. It was merely a little histrionic performance, this asking for delay.

A CAPITAL NIGHT FOR STRANGERS.

The proceedings during the first three or four hours on Friday night were very lively and varied, and must have been a fine treat to strangers in the gallery. First there was a summons from the House of Lords; and, suddenly, whilst the House was busy, presenting and receiving petitions, the strangers heard a voice coming from the bar, shouting "Black Rod!" then they saw the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod march to the table, straight and stiff as the rod itself, except that he twice bent himself towards the Speaker, as if he had a hinge in his back. Then, after the Yeoman Usher had stuck his rod upright upon the table, and muttered a few cabalistic words, quite inaudible in the gallery, visitors saw Mr. Speaker sweep out of his chair, and, led by the Serjeant-at-Arms, with the mace on his shoulder, and followed by a train of members, vanish out of the House. Then the members remaining in the House broke up and stood in knots of two or three, and there was a general buzz of talk throughout the chamber. Presently "Mr. Speaker" was shouted at the bar, and the members scuttled to their places. Mr. Speaker emerged from beneath the gallery, headed by the mace, and resumed his chair. All this was, to many of the strangers who had never seen the ceremonial before, very interesting and mysterious. But there was something still better to come; for, as soon as Mr. Speaker had settled himself well down, he called upon Mr. Bright; and straightway, amidst profound silence, Mr. Bright rose.

MR. BRIGHT'S FAME.

It is curious to reflect how Mr. Bright's fame as a speaker has culminated during the last few years. He has been in Parliament twenty years; he was always, as we know, an eloquent and forcible speaker, and from the first never failed to gain and hold the

attention of the House. But he never was so attractive as he is now. The ring of his voice penetrates into the division lobbies, and generally clears them of members; a flock of peers often come down when it is known that he is going to speak, though they may—as many do—hate the great orator as a certain person hates holy water; and strangers, English and foreign, are more anxious to hear Bright than anyone else. Has Bright, then, changed of late? Not much, we should say. No doubt time has had an effect upon him; it has added to his experience, widened the boundary of his knowledge, and mellowed and chastened his style. He is somewhat less declamatory and more argumentative. It used to be said in the corn-law battles, Cobden reasons, Bright declaims; and, comparing these two celebrated men, this was true. But Bright could always reason well. We think, though, as we have said, he argues more and declaims less than he did. But if there be any material change, it is this—during the last three or four years he has developed more fully his fine humour and his power of delicate irony. These are now some of the principal charms of his effective speaking. It has been said that a man without a sense of humour is but half a man. Bright has a keen sense of humour. We know not whether he reads the works of Jean Paul, but he often reminds us of that most humorous of all humourists.

RADICALISM AND TORYISM FACE TO FACE.

Mr. Bright rose to present a petition about the Irish Fenians, their crimes, their sufferings, and their provocations. This petition was signed by thirteen gentlemen, all educated men, and some of them known to fame. It was a bold petition and required a bold man to present it to such an assembly as the House of Commons. Mr. Bright was equal to the occasion. Few men in the House would have had the courage to undertake this task. There is, perhaps, not another who would have done it so well. For think what he had to confront and encounter. First, there was the whole Conservative phalanx. Men think that Conservatism has changed its character of late, and is more or less adapting itself to the times; and in some important respects it is. But in such a matter as this it is the same Conservatism, or, say, rather, Toryism, as it ever was. It will not admit that any tyranny can justify or even palliate insurrection—that it is as ready as ever to stamp out, as with an iron hoof, or quench in the blood of the rebels. Then, mixed with this, there was angry Irish landlordism—angry and frightened. And who had Bright to support him? Whiggery would not. Whiggery might not hoot him, but it would preserve an ominous silence. He had, then, only at his back the men below the gangway, made up of English and Irish Radicals. It was a brave thing to do to present that petition; but how calmly and well he did it! Ordinary petitions are nightly presented in shoals without notice; but Bright determined to set forth the allegations of this petition and to read its prayer; and he succeeded in doing so—but not without opposition. First Mr. Baillie Cochrane—Alexander Dundas-Wishart Baillie Cochrane, to give the hon. gentleman all his names. Mr. Cochrane is, as our readers may probably know, great—or little, perhaps we should say—in foreign affairs, and has this honour, if no other: he has been counted out oftener than any man in the House. You see the House does not believe in Mr. Cochrane as an oracle on foreign affairs, and will not listen to his disquisitions thereon. Mr. Cochrane "rose to order." He asked the Speaker whether Mr. Bright was entitled to make a speech on presenting a petition; whereupon Mr. Speaker rose and said, "The hon. member for Birmingham is reading the allegations of the petition, which he has a right to do." Mr. Cochrane rose to order, but himself was out of order, and had to drop discomfited into his seat, getting nothing but official rebuke by his move. Mr. Bright of course sat down when Mr. Cochrane rose; but now, Cochrane being thus repressed, the member for Birmingham got up, and calmly, without deigning to notice the interruption, went on with his work; but he had not proceeded far when up jumped the irrepressible Darby Griffith, also "to order." He had got hold of another point. Mr. Speaker some nights ago refused to allow one member to call another a Fenian; and poor dim-eyed Darby thought he saw a precedent for stopping the reading of this petition. But his little glimmering rushlight was speedily quenched. Mr. Speaker, in a few dignified words, refuted poor Darby's limping logic, and sent him back into his seat. And again Mr. Bright continued his task; and this time he was allowed to go on without interruption nearly to the end, but not quite; for, whilst he was reading the prayer of the petition, the impetuous Major Knox, son of Lord Ranfurly, an Irish landlord in Tyrone, jumped up. We thought he would spring to his feet; for we had long seen him on the fidget, looking flushed and angry the while. And this was the talk between the angry member and the calm, impassive Speaker. Major Knox: "Is the hon. gentleman in order in reading such a statement to the House?" Mr. Speaker, with great dignity: "An honourable member, in presenting a petition, is entitled to read the petition." Major Knox, angry: "Whether loyal or disloyal?" Then there came loud shouts of "Order!" and the irate Major had to drop into his seat; and then Mr. Bright finished, and Mr. Speaker put the question "that the petition do lie on the table?" The angry Major opposed the motion; but he could get no support, and the motion was carried. Then the House quietly went to the next business on the paper—viz., Mr. Monk to give notice that he shall on Monday next ask a question about banns of marriage. Mr. Monk is the son of the late Bishop Monk, of Gloucester and Bristol, and naturally takes to these ecclesiastical questions as a young duckling takes to water. Now, readers, fancy this scene, on that Friday evening, as we have described it. Angry Conservatism growling the while, Whiggery silent, and Radicals below the gangway cheering with enthusiasm; Mr. Bright calmly reading the allegation of the petition; irate Irish landlords and others jumping up at intervals to stop him; Mr. Speaker, in his stately way, putting them down; and, say, was not this a dainty dish to set before the stranger in the gallery?

A GOOD MAN IN TROUBLE.

But this was not all. There were also several other preliminary dishes. For example, there was the badgering of poor Mr. Walpole touching the Hyde Park meeting. This to us was, though, by no means a savoury dish; for, respecting Mr. Walpole, as everybody who knows him must, it was painful to see him thus put to the question. How haggard, pale, and anxious he looked, and how confusedly he stammered through his task! But this is not a pleasant subject to dwell upon; and so we pass on.

HUMOUR.

The main joint of this feast was Bright's formal speech on the Hyde Park meeting. But here we must be short, for space fails. We have spoken of Mr. Bright's humour; we will give just two specimens, and then close for the week. Mr. Bright was noting the abuse which had been poured on Mr. Beales. "Well," said he, "I have gone through a great deal of that sort of thing. Last year I had to endure terrible abuse for my dangerous views (Conservative cheers). But then this year my abusers have embodied my views in an Act of Parliament (loud laughter and cheers). Again, Mr. Beales has been abused and even persecuted. But now he has the intense satisfaction of seeing the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his colleagues gradually dragging, inviting, alluring, coaxing, coercing, the great Conservative party of England into intimate alliance with him—Mr. Beales." Since Friday night there has been little worthy of notice.

THE HOP PLANTATIONS.—The late warm days and nights have caused the young hops to push forward rapidly, and the reports from the chief hop-growing districts of Kent all describe the bine as being healthy and strong, with a growth altogether unprecedented. There are but few plantations remaining in which polling is uncompleted, and by the close of the present week it is expected that the whole will be finished. In some few gardens the aphids has already commenced its attack on the young bine, but a few heavy showers will effectually clean the plant. The only fear entertained on the part of the largest planters is that the bine should become too forward from the present unusually warm weather, and become nipped on a decrease of temperature. A great deal of fresh land has this year been brought under hop cultivation throughout both Kent and Sussex.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 3.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the motion of Lord REDESDALE, it was ordered that no private bill from the Commons be read the second time after June 18 next, and that no bill confirming the provisional orders of the Board of Health, the Inclosure Commissioners, or the Board of Trade, be read the second time after June 21.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FENIAN PRISONERS.

Mr. BRIGHT presented a petition signed by twelve or thirteen gentlemen in reference to the Fenian prisoners in Ireland, and the treatment of the Fenians generally. The petition was most ably argued, and the prayer was in effect that the sentence of death on the Fenians might not be carried out, that those who were imprisoned should not be classed with other convicts, and that the Army might be instructed not to imitate in Ireland in the suppression of Fenianism the atrocities committed in India and Jamaica. When the motion was made that the petition lie on the table, Major KNOX moved its rejection, but was promptly rebuked by Mr. NEWDEGATE, who pointed out that the petition contained nothing disrespectful to the House. The motion for its reception was therefore carried.

THE REFORM BILL.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, advertizing to the division which took place the previous evening on the proposal of the Government to fix the residential qualification for the borough franchise at two years, stated that, having brought the matter under the consideration of his colleagues, they had, after deliberating on that and other points in the Reform Bill, arrived at the conclusion that they "had not thought it consistent with their duty not to defer to the opinion of the House." At the same time he stated what amendments he proposed to insert with the view of defining more exactly the position of the compound householders. These were in effect to make it perfectly plain that they could only obtain a vote by paying not merely the compound rate, but the full rate. He announced also that so convinced were the Government of the injustice of Sir Wm. Clay's Act in respect to compound householders that he intended to propose the insertion of a clause in the Reform Bill by which the power now possessed by compound householders to get upon the rate-book without paying more than the amount of the compound rate should be abolished.

Mr. HORSMAN very naturally called attention to the letter which Mr. Disraeli had written to his supporters on April 9 announcing that the Government would regard the carrying of any of Mr. Gladstone's amendments as fatal to the bill, and pointed out that the amendment carried the previous evening was, in fact, one of those proposed by Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Horsman, therefore, wished to know how this was to be reconciled with the decision now come to by the Government.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER asked that the letter should be viewed in a spirit of candour, and thought it was a very good letter; but said, notwithstanding its statements, the Government had come to the conclusion which he had announced.

TREATMENT OF FENIAN PRISONERS.

Mr. MAGUIRE called attention to the statements which have appeared lately of the cruel treatment of the Irish political prisoners at Portland and in Pentonville prison.

Lord NAAS gave a general denial to the specific allegations of cruelty, and proceeded to say that there was no power under the law as it stood to separate the political prisoners from other convicts. If such a separation were deemed desirable, the law would have to be altered.

MONDAY, MAY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships only sat for a few minutes, and, after passing the Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act, 1851, Bill through Committee, the greater portion of their number proceeded to the House of Commons to witness the debate on the Reform Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DILLWYN-TAYLOR NEGOTIATION.

Mr. B. OSBORNE made an appeal to Mr. Dillwyn to produce the original memorandum with reference to Mr. Hibbert's amendment, and offered if this were done not only to place his own copy before the House, the accuracy of which had been questioned, but to apologise if it were shown that he had been in error. He contended that as the memorandum had been drawn up for the purpose of attracting votes, it was essentially a public document, and therefore ought not to be withheld.

Mr. DILLWYN, however, "respectfully declined" to produce the original unless the House required it of him.

Colonel TAYLOR insisted that his conversation with Mr. Dillwyn was of a "private nature."

Mr. LOWE contrasted the difference between the quasi pledge in reference to the compound householders, which was the striking feature of the memorandum, with the new position taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the same matter.

THE REFORM BILL.

In Committee of the whole House on the Representation of the People Bill, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that the Government, having fully considered the amendment of Mr. Hibbert providing additional facilities to compound householders for acquiring the franchise, had arrived at the conclusion that they could not give it their support. They had determined, however, to move an amendment to the 34th clause of the bill, to the effect that after the compound householder had claimed to be rated and to pay his rate, and had given notice thereof to his landlord, he should have power to deduct from his rent the full amount of rate so paid.

Mr. MCULLAGH TORRENS proposed to insert words in the clause admitting lodgers to the possession of the franchise.

The motion was supported by Mr. H. Lewis, Mr. McLaren, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. Alderman Lusk; and opposed by Mr. Smollett.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER had for some time felt that a lodger franchise, if established upon a sound principle, would be a very good franchise; but he could not approve of the manner in which it had now been submitted to the Committee. For on a clause which, if it were anything at all, was a rating clause, the hon. member had foisted in a provision which did not blend with the language or the enactment of the clause. If, however, it were introduced in a distinct and definite shape, he promised that it should receive the candid and friendly consideration of the Government. He might add that he should be very glad indeed if a lodger franchise were inserted in the bill.

Mr. GLADSTONE hoped that, before Mr. Torrens consented to withdraw his amendment upon the assurance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he would be satisfied that the lodger franchise which the right hon. gentleman was willing to concede was one that did not exclude the lower class of artisans.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER reminded Mr. Gladstone that the question whether the lodger franchise should be a £10 was not then before the Committee.

Mr. TORRENS, after some pressure on the part of Sir G. Grey and others, who pointed out that Mr. Disraeli had given a distinct pledge in favour of the principle of a lodger franchise, withdrew his motion.

The Committee soon after reported progress, and the House resumed and entered on the discussion of the Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill.

TUESDAY, MAY 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY inquired whether the Government would consent to the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of Ritualistic observance.

Lord DERBY replied in the affirmative, but insisted that the inquiry should be a comprehensive one and include all matters affecting the performance of public worship.

Several of the Bishops united in thanking Lord Derby, and Lord SHAFTESBURY concluded the discussion by affirming that the subject was ripe for settlement.

Lord LYTTELTON moved the second reading of his bill to enable the Crown to erect new bishoprics, and, after some discussion, it was read the second time.

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY warmly supported the measure, and both Lord DERBY and Lord RUSSELL expressed themselves favourable to it.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Lord NAAS, in reply to Mr. Morris, confirmed the report that a season of great distress was impending in Connemara, and that the poor people were already feeding their cattle with provender which they would require for their own sustenance. The Government are giving their serious attention to this matter.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

Sir J. GRAY moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee to consider the temporalities and privileges of the Established Church in Ireland. The hon. gentleman founded his argument not only on the excessive anomalies of the case, 88 per cent of the people of Ireland being adverse to the dominant faith, and the clerical office in many parishes being a mere sinecure, but on the broad principles of religious equality, which, he contended, were recognised by Great Britain in every part of her dominions except Ireland. He quoted the authority of great statesmen against the Irish Church, and appealed to the leaders of both parties to settle this question without rendering it necessary to institute another agitation like that for Catholic Emancipation. In 114 parishes the proportion of Protestants, including the clerical and official members of the Church, amounted to fourteen in each parish.

The motion was seconded by Colonel GREVILLE.

In the course of the protracted debate which ensued, Mr. GLADSTONE

made a speech in support of the principle of Sir J. Gray's motion, and intimated that the time would soon come when he should endeavour to give effect to his opinion.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for Ireland and Lord NAAS, on behalf of the Government, offered an equally resolute opposition to the motion.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SCOTTISH LAW OF HYPOTHEC.

The greater part of the sitting in the House of Commons was taken up by a discussion on the Scotch law of hypothec. There were two bills on the paper—one introduced by Mr. Carnegie, which abolishes hypothec for rent altogether; and a second, which has come down from the Lords, and is in the charge of the Government, confined to amending and mitigating the law in important points. After a debate of some hours, the second reading of the first bill was negatived by 225 to 96, and the other was read the second time.

CHURCH RATES.

The House went into Committee on the Church Rates Abolition Bill, Mr. HARDCASTLE proposing to take the discussion on Mr. Waldegrave-Leslie's compromise on the next stage, as he was necessarily absent from ill-health; but objection was taken to this course, and on a division a motion to report progress was carried by 242 to 102.

THURSDAY, MAY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION.—RESIGNATION OF MR. WALPOLE.

Earl COWPER rose to call attention to the proceedings of the Government with respect to the recent meeting in Hyde Park, and to move for copies of the notice issued by the Secretary of State warning the public against attending this meeting, and also of the instructions given to the police on the subject. The noble Earl said that so far back as last July the Government had obtained a legal opinion that they had no power to remove people from the park by force unless anything short of insurrection had occurred. The public were supposed to know nothing of this. Now, considering that the late Reform meeting had been projected for at least three months, he considered it very extraordinary that the Government should have taken the steps in the matter they had. He must refer to a proclamation by a Secretary of State, which used very strong language if not to be followed up by any other action. The Government next sent the proclamation by police officers to a public meeting, where it was read to the reformers. But the reformers took no notice of it. Then came the notification that immense bodies of police would be provided, military would be called into the metropolis, &c. An eminent member of the Cabinet had said in public that "the Government had been defied in language which could not be submitted to, and that they would enforce their power." He also said in the other House that he "believed steps had been taken to suppress the meeting, though it would be unwise in him to state their exact nature." And yet, after all that, the Cabinet only began to see their course on Sunday evening. He believed that no greater blow had been struck at all respect for authority and law than that of which the Government had been guilty. Such a course was calculated to bring the Ministry into contempt. He must, before concluding, pay a tribute to the conduct of those who attended the meeting, which was eminently peaceable.

The Earl of DERBY apprehended that, in moving for the papers, the noble Earl only did so for the purpose of giving expression to his views on this question. He was glad of the opportunity to discuss the matter. He must say a few words in vindication of his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The labours of that gentleman had been so arduous, and his health had suffered so much, that he was compelled to place his resignation in his hands, and in spite of all remonstrances compelled him to accept it. By this step the Cabinet lost one of its most efficient members. Now as to the question before the House. The Cabinet had assumed the whole responsibility of the matter. The noble Earl wished it to be understood that last year the Government acted upon the opinion favourable to the Crown, given, in 1856, by Sir A. Cockburn and another eminent law Lord. The noble Earl opposite appeared to take it for granted that last year the state of law was against the Government, whereas for ten months the Government had not felt it necessary to take a single step to assert further what had then been stated to be their undoubted right. The present Cabinet took opinion of their own law Lords immediately after the occurrence of the events of last year. With that opinion they were well acquainted. [In answer to Earl Russell, the noble Earl said the opinion was dated July 28, 1856.] Now, as to the question why they did not strengthen the power of the Crown, if they were right in doing so. The fact was, the leaders of the movement had said they would try the question by law, and Government had consented to give them every legal facility to try the right. That being the case, it would not have looked well on the part of the Government to assert their right in face of judicial proceedings.

Earl RUSSELL was of opinion that the meetings in the parks might be safely left to the discretion of the people. If the meetings were continued, then it would be the duty of the Government to interfere, and the only course would be by a bill on the subject.

The LORD CHANCELLOR defended the course the Government had adopted, and said that it was the only one open to them.

Earl GREY condemned the Government for at one time refusing to allow the meeting to take place, and, when they were defied by the leaders of those who opposed the Ministry, giving way and allowing them to do that which they had previously refused.

Lord CAIRNS thought it very desirable that Parliament should take into their consideration the question of who was to have the control of the parks.

Earl GRANVILLE considered the conduct of the Government had neither been conciliatory to the masses nor firm in carrying out the determination they had come to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE HYDE PARK MEETING.

Mr. NEATE asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department who were the persons on whom notice was served that they would be proceeded against as trespassers or otherwise if they held a meeting in Hyde Park; what would be the nature of such proceedings; and whether instructions had been given to the law officers to institute, and that without delay, such proceedings against the persons served with such notices.

Mr. WALPOLE said the notice, signed by himself, was served, on May 1, on Mr. Beales, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Bradlaugh, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Merriman, and Mr. Howard. On May 6 it was served on several others. Instructions had been given to the law officers of the Crown, and the whole matter was under their consideration at this moment. It would ill become him to say more until they had determined the exact proceedings to be taken.

LUXEMBURG.

Lord STANLEY, in answer to Mr. Labouchere, said that the Conference now assembled in London met that morning, and substantially an arrangement had been come to in reference to all the matters connected with the dispute, so that the hope he expressed a few days ago that an amicable settlement would be come to had been practically realised. With regard to the guarantee, England, with the other signatories of the Treaty of 1839, had guaranteed the neutrality of Luxemburg; and all they had done was to suit that guarantee to the circumstances of the present time. Only a few minor matters had now to be arranged, and the Conference would close in a few days.

THE REFORM BILL.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. Gladstone, stated that under the law as it would stand, if the present proposals of the Government were adopted, the compound householder at and above £10 coming upon the register would cease to be a compound householder. In the event of his paying, in pursuance of his claim, any "rate due in respect of the premises," he would be entitled to deduct the sum so paid from rent payable by him to his landlord. The meaning of the words "rate due in respect of the premises" was the rate due from the landlord at the time of the tenant making his claim. By the terms of the third clause, requiring that the person to be registered shall have been an inhabitant occupier for twelve months, it was intended to require that he shall have resided during that period.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

The House went into Committee on this bill, and the debate was resumed on the amendment proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in page 2, line 8, after "rated" to insert "as an ordinary occupier."

Mr. HIBBERT felt himself bound to oppose the amendment, and stated that the course taken by the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not give satisfaction to the country, and would not do away with the inconvenience complained of. The burden was now taken off the tenant, but it was shifted on to the shoulders of the compound landlord. The compound occupier, he contended, paid the full amount of his rate; and the amount of rate collected on compounding houses was equal in amount to what would be collected from the same number of houses were the compounding Acts not in operation. He thought it very probable that the landlord would say to the tenant, "Now you have put yourself on the register you have put me to additional expense, and I must recompense myself by additional rent."

After some observations from Mr. Lowe, Mr. Bright, Mr. Roebuck, and several other members, pro and con.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER entered into an explanation of the principle upon which persons should be admitted to the privilege of voting, and that was personal rating and payment of the taxes in full. The bill was founded on a broad principle which would gradually create changes, and which would add to the lustre of the people of this great country. He hoped that the Government would be able, with the assistance of the House, to carry the bill to a happy conclusion.

Mr. GLADSTONE entered into explanations relative to some expressions he had made use of, after which the Committee divided. The numbers were—

For the amendment 322

Against it 256

Majority for the Government 66

The Chairman then reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

(In all cases to be paid in advance.)

Stamped Edition, to go free by post.

Three Months, 4s. 4d.; Six Months, 8s. 8d.; Twelve Months, 17s. 4d.

Post Office Orders to be made payable to THOMAS FOX, Strand Branch.

Four Stamps should be sent for Single Copies.

Office: 2, Catherine-street, Strand, W.C.



THE CONFERENCE.

DIPLOMATIC secrets are better kept in England than in most countries, and probably until the Conference has finished its labours we shall not know what its labours really have been. At the present moment, however, the mere fact of its having assembled augurs well for the preservation of peace. Other Conferences, it is true, have met under seemingly favourable circumstances, when the only result of their coming together has been to demonstrate the impossibility of arriving at any peaceful understanding. But in those cases we have known beforehand in what the real obstacles to an agreement consisted. In regard to the Conference on the Luxemburg question, the only obstacles which did exist appear now to have been removed, and unless either France or Prussia, or both countries, have made up their minds for war, and are only attending the Conference for the sake of form—as prize-fighters before setting-to shake hands—we may look upon a peaceful solution as already determined upon.

Some weeks ago the Luxemburg question afforded as sound a cause of quarrel between France and Prussia as could well have been devised. Each of the two Powers, from its own point of view, might well consider itself in the right; while each, from the other's point of view, could easily be shown to be in the wrong. France, on the one hand, refused to recognise any title on the part of Prussia to occupy a fortress which had been intrusted to the keeping not of Prussia individually, but of Prussia as a member of the now defunct German Confederation—defunct, moreover, through the action of Prussia herself. Prussia, on the other hand, did not choose to have a fortress of which she was in actual occupation, and which she had held for fifty years, sold, as it were, over her head. Nor was it unreasonable on her part to maintain that its safe keeping had been intrusted to Prussia as a great German Power and in the interest of Germany; so that whether the German Confederation existed or not as a thing of form she was bound all the same to continue her occupation of a stronghold which is to the Rhine much what Gibraltar is to the Mediterranean. When there are such good arguments on both sides of a question, the difficulty of settling it otherwise than by blows is of course very great indeed; and if, as now seems all but certain, the Conference should succeed in averting all immediate danger of war, diplomacy will have done much to regain the credit that, during the last few years, it has lost. An Ambassador, in giving evidence, some years ago, before the Commission for inquiring into the state of the diplomatic service, said, with much conciseness and point, that the object of diplomacy was "to keep the peace of Europe;" and what Lord Napier described as the true and legitimate object of diplomacy will, we may hope, be really attained in the case of Luxemburg.

After a great deal of unnecessary bragging and a considerable amount of very dangerous military preparations on both sides, France and Prussia agreed to meet in conference, on terms with which all newspaper-readers must now be familiar. Nothing absolutely official has yet been published on the subject; but it is tolerably certain, all the same, that France agreed to give up all claim to Luxemburg, on condition that the place should be neutralised. This involved, as a necessary consequence, the evacuation of the fortress by the Prussian garrison. If Prussia had, on her part, consented to withdraw her troops from Luxemburg, the work of the Conference would have been finished before its first meeting; but all Prussia really appears to have consented to is to allow the discussion of her claim to continue her fifty years' occupation of the place. If the various Powers assembled in Conference decide that she must go, she will be ready to retire; but even then she will require a guarantee from Europe that the disputed territory shall never pass into the hands of France; while France, on her side, will require a similar warranty that it shall never again fall beneath the power of Prussia.

We observe that hitherto the Prussian journals have preserved the strictest silence as to what is to take place at the Conference. They complain that France, in spite of her peaceful protestations, still continues her armaments; and on this point, it has been remarked, adopt much the same tone that they employed against Austria in the days preceding the celebrated week's fighting known as the "Seven Days' War." But not one Prussian journal has, up to this moment, distinctly declared that Prussia would, even under conditions of her own putting, agree to evacuate Luxemburg; nor has any Prussian journal published the least thing in reference to the actual proceedings of the Conference to produce a belief that a peaceful solution will be arrived at. The French newspapers, according to their custom, have been more communicative; but we learn from the *Evening Moniteur* of the 8th inst. that, as we suspected, Prussia has

not even agreed to the preliminary basis of negotiation recommended by the neutral Powers to both Prussia and France. England, Austria, and Russia had advised that, before assembling, all the Powers to be represented at the Conference should come to an understanding that the grand duchy should be neutralised. This, as we before said, disposed virtually of the whole question. Prussia was to go out, France was not to come in; while, with regard to the future, the coveted territory was placed beyond the reach of both its would-be proprietors.

The French unofficial papers, and even some of the semi-official ones, are inclined to believe that Prussia has agreed to the neutralisation, and consequent evacuation, of Luxemburg, and some of our own journals, without sufficient cause we are afraid, have taken up the same view. In that case the neutralisation question would, alone, present some slight difficulties. The *Economist*, the *Morning Star*, and probably a few more papers of the same extreme views in regard to foreign politics, maintain that it is the duty of England to abstain from taking any part in guaranteeing the neutrality of Luxemburg, lest by doing so we may some day or other be dragged into war for a place which France and Prussia both covet but for which we care nothing. Of course there is no such thing as a guarantee without responsibility. But is not our moral responsibility to be considered at such a moment as this, when, by refusing to join the other Powers of Europe—the other members of the great European family—we shall, in fact, be refusing to take the one step which alone can save the Continent from the horrors of war? Nor—whatever the party of total abstainers from the affairs of the Continent may say to the contrary—can we be at all sure that a war begun between two Powers so intimately connected with us as France and Prussia will not in time spread so as to include England within its circle. It seems to us, then, that, if only for prudential reasons, our statesmen would do well not to refuse the guarantee of neutralisation which France notoriously requires, and which Prussia also will most certainly demand, if Prussia consents to withdraw from Luxemburg at all.

MEETING OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

A MEETING of the supporters of Lord Derby's Government was held at the noble Earl's official residence, Downing-street, on Monday afternoon, to hear from the Premier the course which the Ministry intended to take relative to the proposed amendments to the Reform Bill. 225 members were present.

Lord Derby, who was loudly cheered, commenced by explaining fully the plan the Government intended to adopt with regard to the meeting to be held in Hyde Park. He stated that, though they had been accused of vacillation and irresolution, and especially Mr. Walpole, yet the course that they pursued at the end was what they from the very first determined upon, and was the united action of the Cabinet, and not of Mr. Walpole only. He explained at considerable length the law with regard to the rights of the Crown to the park, and how far such meetings as the one in question were legal. He stated that, acting under the advice of not only the existing law officers of the Crown, but also of all the previous legal advisers, they had issued a proclamation, which was in the form of a public notice, warning all persons against an infringement of the law, and they had further made a personal service of a notice upon all those persons who had been advertised to speak, and all who were about to take part in the proposed political discussion in the park, notifying to them that, should they attempt to address the meeting, they would be liable to a civil action at law for trespass, and Lord Derby stated that such actions would be immediately commenced against them. He added that the law officers of the Crown had not only advised this as the proper course, but as the sole course that could be pursued according to statute law. He was determined, whilst maintaining the dignity of the Crown, not to illegally endanger the liberties of the subject. His Lordship then alluded to the Reform Bill, and explained at length the various bearings of the question of the personal payment of rates in full; expressing his opinion that there could be no justification in exempting the compound householders from the same liability that was common to all other ratepayers, and that he considered that the personal payment of the full rate was a necessary barrier against household suffrage pure and simple. Holding this opinion so strongly as he did, whatever the decision of the House was he could not give way. He then alluded to some new clauses which the Chancellor of the Exchequer would introduce that evening.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, on rising was loudly cheered, then explained the nature of these new clauses, by which he maintained the inequalities which were complained of, and which had been reproachfully termed a fine upon compound householders, would be entirely obviated.

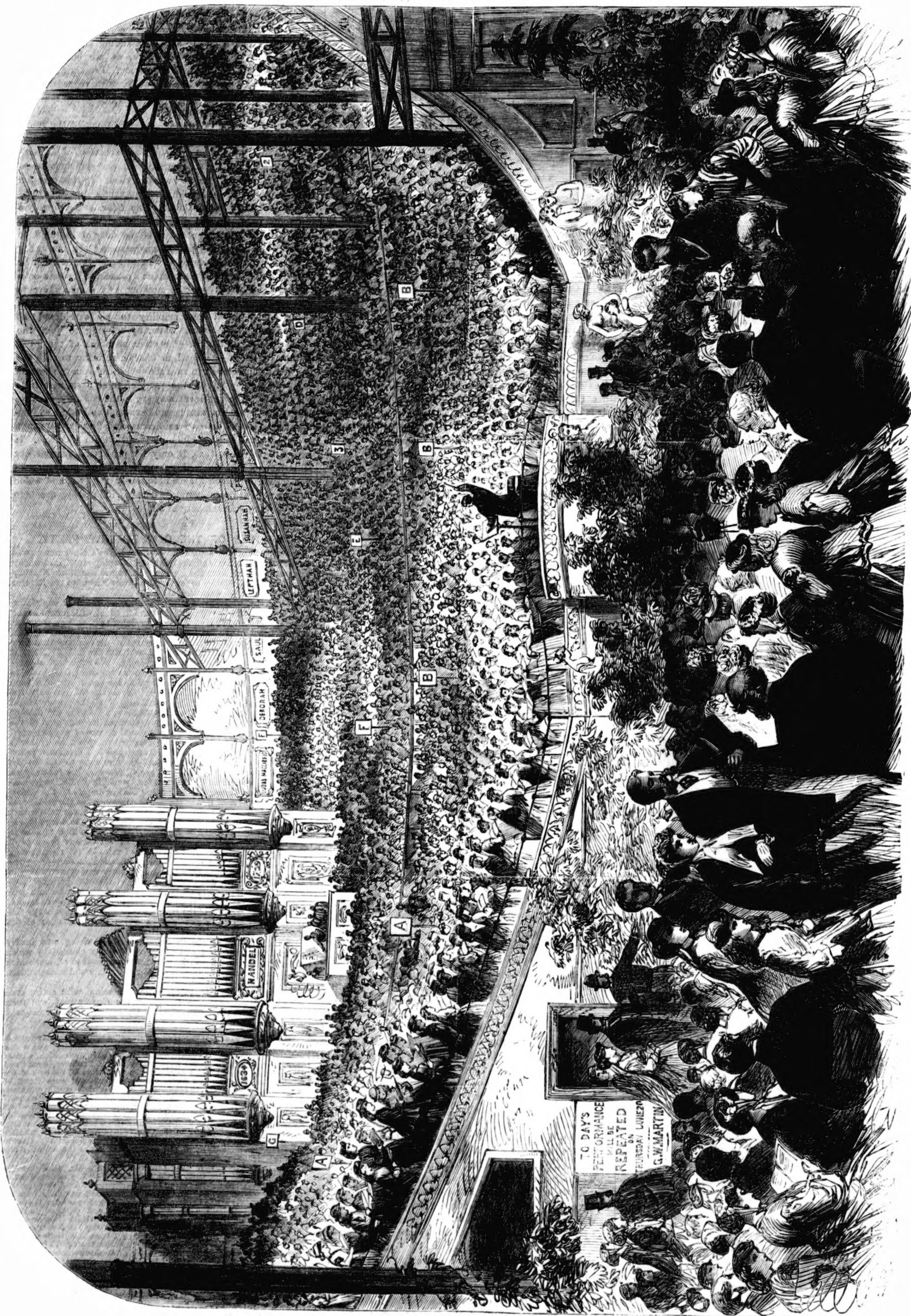
The meeting then broke up, after expressing, with entire unanimity, their determination to support the Government, and their satisfaction with the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

HOW CONSERVATIVE "REPRESENTATIVES" APPOINT THEMSELVES.

At a deputation which waited upon Mr. Walpole on Monday, and which was stated to represent the newly-formed Conservative Association, a letter was read from certain parties employed by Messrs. Bradbury, Evans, and Co., printers, which affected to embody the sentiments of the bulk of the employers of that firm, and declared that said employers were "sick of Bright, Beales, and Co." In consequence of this statement the workmen in Messrs. Bradbury and Company's establishment have held a "chapel," or office meeting, and passed the following resolution:—"Resolved, 'That the workmen employed by Messrs. Bradbury and Evans, in meeting assembled, being impressed with the opinion that a belief is prevalent that they as a body had sent a letter to the Conservative Association repudiating the Reform League and Messrs. Bright and Beales, emphatically disavow the sentiments there expressed, and declare that it was the act only of a few individual workers.'"

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE LIBERAL PARTY.—Mr. Gladstone has addressed the following letter to the newspapers:—"The communications which have reached me since April 12 with reference to the division on that day, from individuals, from the provincial press, and especially from the chairmen or other acting representatives of meetings in the large towns and elsewhere throughout the country, have been and continue to be so numerous as to place it beyond my power to acknowledge them separately and in the manner I could wish. I therefore beg the favour of being allowed to do it by this public reply, which I trust that those who have addressed me will be so good as to accept. As respects myself, I have reason to be deeply grateful for the terms in which these communications have been couched; and to feel that, if I cannot merit the confidence they express, still they impose upon me even an enhanced obligation to labour, together with others, for the prompt settlement of the question of Reform upon principles liberal, intelligible, durable, and equal in their application to the various classes of persons whom they may affect."

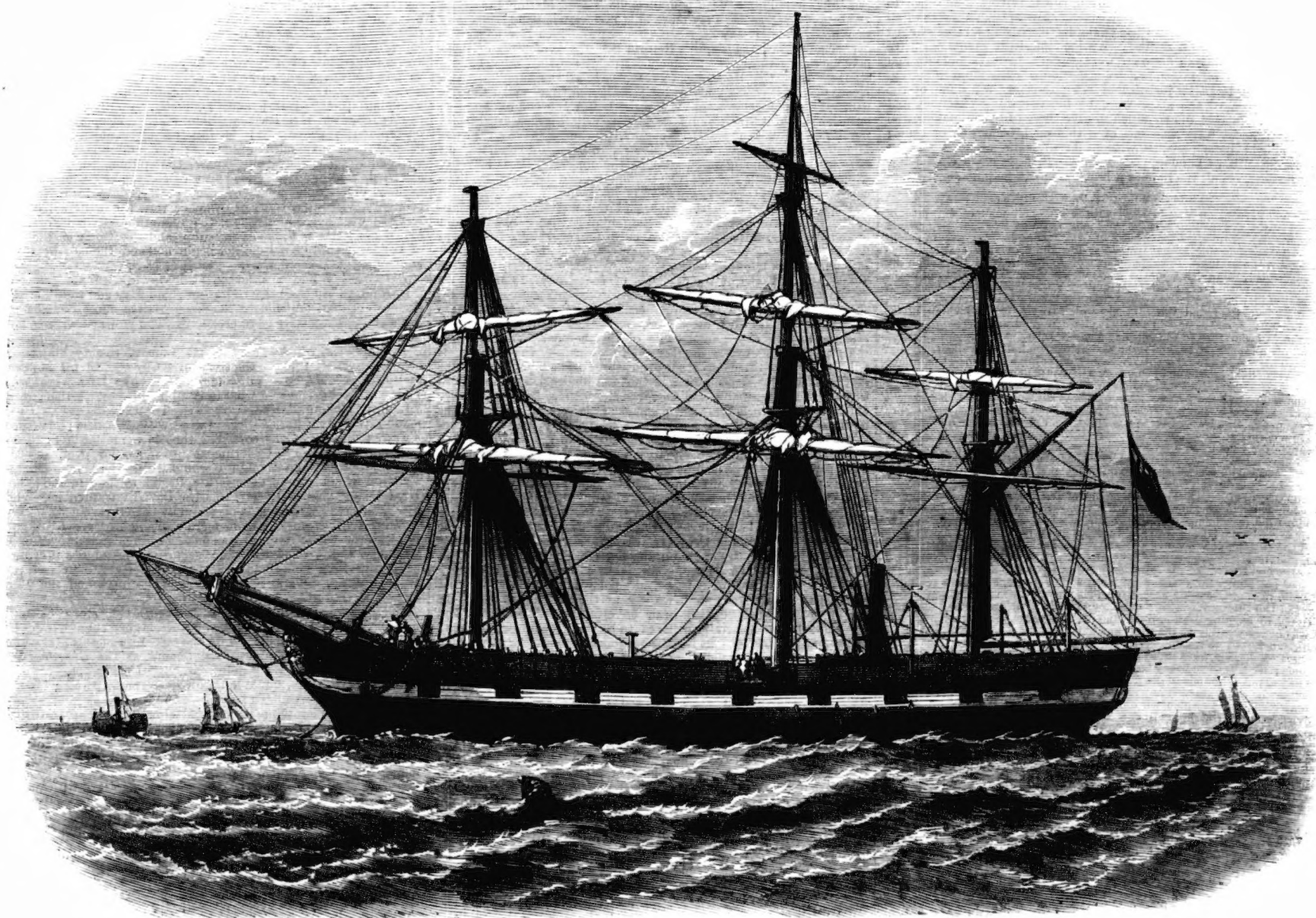
THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—The Royal Academy banquet took place last Saturday night, under the presidency of Sir Francis Grant, who made a series of interesting speeches, in one of which he explained that in addition to building galleries in the rear of Burlington House, an additional story will be added to that edifice, and that the works of art which will be collected there will always be accessible to the public. The Prince of Wales delivered a speech, in which he confirmed the gratifying announcement of the medical journals that the Princess is now recovering from her protracted illness. Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli both addressed the assembly, but said nothing which calls for special comment.



CHORAL FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE



THE LYRE BIRD RECENTLY ADDED TO THE COLLECTION IN THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK.



THE LONG-LOST WHALING SHIP DIANA,

CHORAL FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE choral performances which are given from time to time at the Crystal Palace are among the most attractive of the many attractions of this favourite place of resort. One of the most interesting of these entertainments this season took place on Wednesday, the 1st inst., under the direction of Mr. G. W. Martin. The chorus comprised 5000 voices. The attendance was numerous and appreciative. The programme was divided into sacred and secular music, and the former comprised "Martin Luther's Hymn," "Brightest and Best," "The Forest Traveller's Evening Prayer," "O come! loud anthems let us sing," "The Children's Prayer," "What is Life?" "Come, sound His praise abroad;" while the latter portion included "Roses Red," "The Cuckoo," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Minstrel Boy," "The Men of Harlech," "Scots wha hae," "The Sailor's Native Home," and "God Save the Queen." Mr. Martin is fairly entitled to commendation for the skilful manner in which he contrived to preserve a spirit of harmony and concord in so vast a multitude of choristers. The majority of the compositions were arranged and harmonised by Mr. Martin himself. Mr. J. G. Boardman was the organist on the occasion, and his exertions contributed greatly to the general success of the entertainment. Besides this great choral concert, there were the performances by the orchestral band of the company, and a display of the terrace fountains, for the first time this season.

THE LYRE BIRD (MENURA SUPERBA).

It has long been considered an impossibility to keep alive (even in its native country) one of these remarkable birds in a captive state. The specimen lately received in Regent's Park may therefore be regarded as a great addition to the already large collection of rare and fine birds in the possession of the Zoological Society. So shy and easily alarmed is this bird, that it has been found most difficult to obtain any knowledge of its habits.

Mr. Gould says, in "Birds of Australia," vol. i., page 299:—"Of all the birds I have ever met with the menura is by far the most shy and difficult to procure. While among the brush I have been surrounded by these birds, pouring forth their loud and liquid calls for days together, without being able to get sight of them." It is therefore with no small pleasure we welcome the arrival of so shy, and at the same time so distinguished, a visitor; for not only is this bird a very remarkable one on account of its habits and plumage, but it is a most wonderful vocalist, imitating and sending forth the most charming music, with the occasional addition of the most dismal sounds. It is remarkable also for many singular habits; and ornithologists have been greatly puzzled in determining to what order of birds it most properly belongs.

THE LONG-LOST WHALER DIANA.

ANOTHER dismal chapter in the annals of arctic voyages has been completed by the return of the above-named vessel. Last May she sailed from Lerwick with a crew of fifty men, all told, of whom about thirty were Shetlanders and the rest English, and was last heard of beset in the ice in the month of September. On the 2nd ult. she sailed into Rona's Voe, in Shetland, with her fifty men on board, living, dying, and dead. No one was missing. Her captain, with nine of his men dead by his side, lay on the bridge. Five men were fit for duty; and of these two were able to crawl aloft, and the remainder were lying below sick or dying. As the ship came into the port another man died.

The sight which met the eyes of the people from the shore who first boarded her cannot well be told in prose. Dante might have related it in the "Inferno." Coleridge's "Ancient Mariner" might have sailed in such a ghastly ship—battered and ice-crushed, sails and cordage blown away, boats and spars cut up for fuel in the awful arctic winter, the main deck a charnel-house not to be described. The miserable scurvy-stricken, dysentery-worn men who looked over her bulwarks were a spectacle, once seen, not to be forgotten. As the tidings of the ship's arrival went through Shetland, the relatives of her crew journeyed to her to meet their living and to claim their dead; and by instalments, as they were fit to be removed, the survivors were taken to Lerwick or to their homes in the island. Most pitiable sights of all were the ship's boys, with their young faces wearing a strange aged look not easily to be described. We are enabled to give a narrative by one of the men in his own words, which in its simplicity and absence of all *ad misericordiam* statements is the more affecting. But we should not be justified in not publishing the name of the brave surgeon of the ship, who, by his unceasing exertions and admirable example, did so much to save those of his shipmates who have returned. "He was one of a thousand," said one of them; "we should have perished without him." His name is Charles Edward Smith, of London, once a student in Edinburgh University, and he deserves all the honour a brave man can be paid:—

NARRATIVE OF ONE OF THE CREW.

We left Lerwick on May 9, 1866, with a crew, all told, of fifty men, of whom about thirty were Shetlanders and the rest English. We crossed Melville Bay in June, got two whales in Lancaster Sound, and were in Pond's Bay (the chief fishing-ground) in July, but the continued easterly winds prevented the fishing. Towards the end of August and in the beginning of September, were beset in the ice, but got clear again, and ran to the southwards, with every prospect of getting away, seeing nothing but open water for fifty or sixty miles around from the masthead, when one morning, at daybreak, we found the ship close on to solid ice stretching all to the southward, and almost instantly it closed around and the ship was fast beset. We were then to the south of Coutt's Inlet. The captain mustered as all aft and spoke to us, and we all agreed to go on half allowance from that time. This was on Sunday, Sept. 23, and next morning we began on that allowance—viz., 3 lb. bread and 3 lb. meat, with one flour day per week. I used to put myself on a smaller daily allowance in the first of each week, so that, in the end of it, I should have a little more to enable me to start better next week. Like, on Monday morning, when each man got his week's allowance served out to him, I would break a biscuit in four pieces, and tie each quarter up in a corner of my handkerchief, and take one piece at each of the four meal times; thus I had a little over about Thursday or Friday, and could then have more. Many others did the same, but some wouldn't husband theirs, and would eat as long as it lasted, so that on Saturday and Sunday they had none.

The Queen, of Peterhead; the Intrepid, of Dundee, and a steam-whaler—too far away to be known—were the last ships we saw. The Queen was pretty near us, and so was the Intrepid, when we were beset; but the former got into a lane of water and worked away down to the southward; and the Intrepid, having more steam power than we, shoved through the ice, and in six hours we lost sight of her. Then we were left alone. All October and November the ship kept drifting in the ice to the south, at the rate of sometimes seventeen miles a day at the fastest, and about ten miles of daily average. Strong northerly winds pressed the ice to the southwards most of the time. When off Exeter Sound Settlement, in October, we made a signal by burning oakum, pitch, and oil, slung at the main-yardarm; but it was heavy weather at the time, and blowing hard; so it didn't flare up well, and we got no response.

On Dec. 23, we were in Frobiisher's Strait, and drifting between two islands: we got some heavy ice-nips, and the ship sprang a leak; so that we had to put all hands to the pumps to keep her afloat, but, being doubtful whether she could stand it any longer, thought it best to leave her and rig a tent on the ice—which we did, and got all our clothing, bedding, and provisions out of the ship. In one way the tent was better than the ship, because, owing to the pressure of the ice on the ship, she constantly cracked and creaked with such a dreadful noise that you couldn't get a wink of sleep when you did turn in; but then the tent was so fearfully cold, as you had only one thickness of canvas to shelter you, that men couldn't stand it. Captain Gravill was the first night in the tent, but suffered so much from the cold that he went back to the ship in the morning; but several Shetland men were two or three days and nights in the tent. The captain died on Dec. 26, at ten minutes past seven in the morning, and we dressed the body and wrapped it up in canvas, and laid him close to the port side of the bridge, so that if the ship was crushed in by the ice we might easily drop him into a hole alongside. We made a coffin, too, for him, and had it ready in case we should get clear.

The want of fuel came now to be as hard on us as the scarcity of food. We had spent all our coal and a great quantity of spare wood in trying to steam out, when we had a chance in the fall of the year, and now we burnt all spare spars, warps, and all our whale-boats but one. We allowed one oil-cask every two days for the cooking, and we put that fire out for the day at dinner time. Our beef got done in January; coffee and sugar about that time also; and our last tea was served out in the beginning of February. Tobacco was likewise all gone, and some of us tried to smoke tea-leaves and coffee-grounds. The tea-leaves burnt the mouth bad, but the coffee-grounds

were not so disagreeable. I do assure you it was precious cold—specially at night, when your breath froze in the top of your berth, till the ice came to be three or four inches thick, and we had a day every week to break it off and scrape it down with the ship's scrapers.

The men began to get downhearted, and some of them were so weak that they dropped at the pumps. The doctor did everything he could for them, and was all a man should be, taking his watch regularly and working as hard as anyone, but he could not save them. Scurvy began with them, and then they couldn't eat what little food they had, owing to their gums being so bad; and many of them had dysentery. The first two who died—Forbes Smith and Mitchell Abernethy—we made coffins for and laid up beside the captain on the bridge; but we hadn't wood for any more. The men were very quiet and resigned, though, of course, there was a difference among them, and some were more contented than others.

At last, on March 17, with clear moonlight, we drove out between Resolution Islands into the broken ice. There was a great deal of "young" ice broken by the heavy ice, which protected the ship very much, although she struck heavily at times and damaged her rudder. William Lofsey, one of the harpooners, acted as navigator. When we got into the open sea, and the ship began rolling and pitching, the leak got worse, and we had enough to do to keep her afloat, as there were not many able to work. On Sunday, March 31, we exchanged longitudes with a ship; and that very afternoon we sighted land, just two weeks from our leaving the ice. But, unluckily, we took the land we saw to be Orkney, and, wanting to go to Shetland, we stood away to the northward, along the west side of Shetland, all the time supposing it to be Orkney. We beat about there till Tuesday morning, when the mate said he would take the first harbour he could find; and we ran her into Rona's Voe that day at noon, finding, to our surprise, that we had been off Shetland all the time. Had we been out another night, none of us could have stood it. The night before three of my watch dropped down at the pumps, and only four of us were able for duty, and they not much to speak of.

On Sunday night, when we were carrying on her with double-reefed top-sails, the jib halliards gave way; and out of both watches three were all who could go out to stow it, and they weren't fit; and it blew to ribbons. Only another man and I could go aloft to stow the maintopgallant sail when we brought up, and we were just able to crawl; and when we came down we were done up. We came into that port with nine corpses lying on the bridge; and after we had anchored one of the sick hands crawled out from his berth, "Take away this dead man from me!" and then we found that he had been dead some time. So, that was the tenth, and we laid him on the bridge too. The people in the neighbourhood were uncommonly kind; I never met with so much attention in all my life. They would have done anything for us, and sent on board men to help us, and supplied us with all kinds of provisions.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I SUGGESTED last week that Mr. Howard, the assistant librarian of the House of Commons, should be appointed librarian. This, to the entire satisfaction of the members of the House, has been done. The other arrangements which I conjectured would be made have carried out. The salary of the librarian is to be £1000 a year. The indexing of the journals, hitherto performed by the librarian, is to be transferred to the Journal Office, and the residence which the librarian occupied is to be given to Sir Thomas Erskine May, the clerk assistant. The salary of this gentleman, I see by the votes, is £1750 a year. I suppose he is to have the residence in addition. If so, his emoluments will be over £2000 per annum; for this is a furnished house, carrying with it coals, gas, and water. These emoluments, though, are not too large; for Sir Erskine May is the great authority on all matters of Parliamentary practice, the adviser and prompter of the Speaker and of the chairman of committees.

The House of Commons has sat just over three months. It has, if it should break up at the usual time, three months more to sit. But it must be remembered that three months mean only about seventy days, and of these seventy days Government can only command, except by order of the House, fifty-four; and from these we must deduct at least six for holidays, reducing the number to forty-eight. If, then, the enfranchising part of the Reform Bill should be got through, what chance have the clauses which deal with the redistribution of seats? Very little, I think. As to the Irish and Scotch bills—neither of which has whilst I am writing been introduced—I see not how the Government can get them passed. All other bills of importance must, of necessity, I think, go to the wall—the Irish Land Bill, for example. Fortunately, Sir John Gray's motion to go into Committee on the Irish Church was lost; I say fortunately, because, though that sink of abominations needs to be drained, it is obvious that it cannot be done this year, and to attempt it would be only to waste time. Then there are Sunday Liquor Traffic, Metropolitan Management, Metropolitan Gas, Bankruptcy, and some thirty more bills, besides what the Lords may send down; and if any of these should grow into law under the overshadowing of the English Reform Bill, the promoters of them may consider themselves extremely fortunate; for consider, besides all these bills, the House has to vote nearly all the Supplies. The House may, if it chooses, sit beyond the usual time, and I think it will. I do not believe that it can rise before the end of August; but even should it thus prolong the Session, very few measures besides the Reform Bill can pass. We may, of course, have a crisis—a Ministerial resignation or a dissolution; and, in case of the latter, all bills will drop, and more in case of the former. Crisis! Why, whilst I am writing there is one imminent, and before these lines can get into print the bolt may have descended.

The state of parties in the House of Commons is quite unprecedented. There never was anything like it in our history, and there never could have been such a condition of things if Disraeli had not been the leader of the Conservative party, and by his skill, his cunning, his unscrupulousness, and we must confess, his great ability, the controller of the destinies of that party. For what do we now see before us? A Conservative Government forcing through the House a Reform Bill more democratic in principle than the Whigs ever attempted, and that Government in a minority! Saw any man the like of this before? You may say that, though the bill is democratic in principle, in practice it will be less so than Gladstone's measure of last year, and this may be true; but, depend upon it that the hindrances to household suffrage must eventually, and that in a short time, be swept away; and, further, Disraeli knows it; and his followers, though they be never so blind, cannot but see it; and, lastly, they hate this democratic bill, and in their hearts hate the author of it. And yet they follow him, help him zealously to pass the measure, and cheer him on apparently with the utmost enthusiasm. Well, I say that in all history you cannot find anything like this. And am I not right in saying that no man but Disraeli could have brought it about?

The way in which the Government treat their friends of the press is really shameful! I called your attention some time since to the ignorance in which the Conservative organs were kept as to the intentions of the Cabinet on the Reform question; but that, perhaps, could not be helped, seeing that Ministers did not know their own minds, and of course could not well enlighten others on the matter. But what shall we say of the position of the Tory journals as to the Hyde Park affair on Monday? The *Herald* and the *Standard* are generally believed to be the "recognised organs" of the party in London—at least those journals assume that position to themselves. And yet they were not vouchsafed the slightest inkling of the new light the Cabinet had obtained as to the legality or illegality of holding public meetings in the parks, nor of the Government's change of purpose consequent thereon. At least, if these papers knew, they kept their information carefully to themselves. The *Times* and the *Post* knew all about the new legal view and the new policy of abstention from interference with the Leaguers; even the *Star* and *Telegraph* had received a notification of the change of plan; while the two Conservative organs were left entirely in the dark, and were allowed to make fools of themselves on Monday by keeping up the cry of "illegality" when the Government all the while knew that the illegality would have been on their side had they meddled with the meeting. Call ye that backing of your friends? Surely such stanch supporters as "Mrs. Harris" and her friend "Sairey"—as *Punch* used to designate the two old ladies of Shoe-lane—deserved better treatment than this at the hands of Ministers. The merits of old servants, it seems, are not always remembered, even by generous gentlemen of the Conservative way of thinking. "Tis true, and pity 'tis 'tis true," I dare say is the secret thought of the conductors of the *Herald* and *Standard*.—I thought so! The "recognised organs" of the Conservative party were kept in the dark, and are greatly "riled" thereat, of which facts evidence has been supplied since the

above remarks were written. The *Standard* of Tuesday thus expressed its virtuous and justifiable indignation:—"On Monday morning, however, it was announced, not through the recognised organs of the Conservative party—which, really, from the difficulty they have had in defending Mr. Walpole's administration of the Home Department, deserved more courtesy at his hands—but in the columns of an Opposition journal, that the Government had entirely retreated from their original position; that they had no legal *locus standi*, and had abandoned all idea of resisting Mr. Beales and his allies. The journal thus favoured by Mr. Walpole rewarded him with the assurance that his new policy would be received by the whole country with 'deep disgust.' But not deeper disgust, I am sure, than 'the recognised organs' feel at their shameful exclusion from the confidence of the leaders of the Conservative party. It is hardly fair, however, to call the *Times* an 'Opposition journal,' for, though its conversion to Ministerialism on the Reform question is of even more recent date than that of the Conservatives to Radicalism, the Cabinet has now no more devoted advocate anywhere than the Thunderer of Printing House-square."

By-the-by, while speaking of Tory journals, I may be allowed to express my regret for the premature decease of the *Day*, the youngest of the brood, and which failed to make its diurnal appearance on Monday last. I class the *Day* with Tory journals, because, although it described itself as a Constitutional-Liberal—as if all Liberals were not Constitutionalists—it was really more intensely Tory than even the regular Tory organs; as these have been of late, at all events. I regret the early death of the *Day*, after a career of only seven weeks, because, although strongly Conservative, its articles were written with vigour, and were generally free from the vulgar and coarse abuse of opponents which, unhappily, characterises a certain school of journalism in these days. It was said at the time the *Day* was started that its principal proprietor was the Marquis of Westminster, who had subscribed £50,000 to carry it on. Is that large sum gone already, I wonder? or has the noble Marquis discovered that the game of Conservatism, even in disguise, will not pay for the candle? It is just possible that the collapse of Earl Grosvenor's amendment on the Reform Bill, and of that noble Lord as a legislator, may have had something to do with the extinction of the *Day*. Of course, I do not assert that these events occurred in consequence of each other; I only mean to indicate that they followed in remarkably close sequence in point of time.

The George Canning statue, which formerly stood opposite the Judges' entrance to Westminster Hall, has been removed, at the instigation of a railway company which has been allowed to tunnel and undermine within a few yards of Westminster Abbey, although, if report speaks truly, it is not yet in a condition even to compensate the tenants of property required for the line. Not even the ancient graveyard of St. Margaret's, Westminster, is safe from this encroachment. As for the church itself, although it has hitherto been respected on account of the illustrious dead whose tombs are to be seen within its walls, the fabric, which is none of the strongest, can scarcely hope to remain uninjured by the incessant rattle and shaking of trains. The body of Sir Walter Raleigh, brought hither from his execution in the adjacent Palace-yard, must then be removed, and that exquisite specimen of Gothic—Henry VII.'s Chapel—together with the so-called "beautiful porch," of the abbey abutting upon the churchyard, can scarcely hope to escape a shattering in order that errand-boys and bagmen may save pence and minutes in locomotion in the mile between Charing-cross and Piccadilly.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

It is perfectly natural that the characteristics of modern life should be reflected in the magazines, which are supposed to minister to the needs of its leisure; at all events, they are so reflected. The characteristic of magazine literature in general is commonplace objectivity. Turning over their pages (the exceptions being magazines with specialties, such as science or religion), we find the pages dotted with familiar noun-substantives, such as castle, beef, bread, beer, hounds, whip, window, garden, hotel, cheese, duchess, villa, lavender, envelope, opera, police-station, soup, organist, chair, rags, silver, brandy, property. The sole exceptions to this rule, not being magazines with specialties, are *Macmillan* and the *Argosy*. In these two magazines you meet with what I have more than once called ozone, or the living atmosphere of unworldliness. You find an enlargement of the vocabulary which indicates that the writers are not always thinking of such things as eating, drinking, dressing, riding, making an appearance, achieving successes, marrying pretty girls; and, generally, doing as comfortable people do, at the least possible cost. *Temple Bar* (for an example the other way) is full of pleasant matter, chiefly consisting of expanded anecdotes; and, doubtless, the people who edit such magazines know the public for which they cater; but a hundred odd pages of story, sketch, and anecdote without one single touch of deep poetry, deep feeling, or deep thought—without a trace of evidence that the writers have even seen, at ever such a distance, the mountain summits of human experience—this is to me as sickening and wearisome as the streets of London would be if I did not begin and end the day by looking at the fields and the flowers.

Blackwood I had not looked at last week. I am glad to see "Brownlows" in the place of honour; and may add that the story-sketch entitled "A Modern Magician" is the most piquant thing the month's magazines have produced. The political writing I need not describe.

In *Belgravia*, which is another magazine of society and nothing else, the liveliest thing is the story of "Circe." In his new series of "Letters" Mr. Sala is of course amusing, as he always is; but I have not yet discovered what it is all about. With the paper on "Literary Honours" I am sorry to say I entirely disagree. I would much rather Mr. Charles Dickens went without a title; he is too big for any trumpery of the sort, but that is a matter of taste. The question of literary Government pensions, however, stands on another footing; and though I would willingly see a national subscription which should deposit a splendid fortune in the hands of Mr. Charles Dickens (if Mr. Charles Dickens wanted it), I should not like to see literary men subsidised by the Government.

London Society, while even more wanting in "ozone" than the thing from which it takes its name, has greatly improved of late. "County Court Sketches" are very funny, and the illustrations beyond praise. Tom Hood writes some "Goldsmith" verses, which are charming. "Mr. Fairweather's Yachting" and the "Bump Supper at Oxford" are capital light papers.

In the *Churchman's Family Magazine* the story called the "Gravenors," by the Rev. Francis Moore, is good enough to deserve a word of praise all to itself. I do not recognise in this magazine our old friend "the inevitable Walsingham," as the *Guardian* called him; but perhaps it is my dulness, though I think not.

In the *St. James's*, "Life in a North German Château" is a very pleasant series of readable papers.

The *Argosy* maintains its original character. The sea-balled is poor, and the "Doom of the Prynnes" is purposeless; but the magazine adheres to its design, and still gives us story, essay, and sketch, which stand related to similar matter in most of the other magazines as mountain woodlands to St. James's Park. Occasionally you have cockney papers, but you are not smothered with the atmosphere of the streets and the smell of soups, and those "perfumed drawing-rooms" and "scented boudoirs" which appear to make up some people's heaven. "Robert Falconer," though a little wanting in impulse or *motif*, and a little drawn out (I do not say or mean *spun out*), is not only the most exquisite thing, but immeasurably the most exquisite thing, now going in the magazines. "Lieutenant Foozy" is very amusing, but not quite stupid enough. Mr. Gilbert's short story, "Tomasso and Pepina," is an entertaining variation upon an old theme.

In *Good Words* some readers may be painfully amused at comparing a portion of Mr. Sella Martin's lacerating story with a mollifying passage in "Guild Court" about the alleviations of human suffering. In opposition to the author of "Guild Court," I believe

it is the horrors, not the alleviations, that the majority of men and women underrate; and people are so glibly ready with their apologies for these awful mysteries, that it is doing them a service to drive such things home to their minds by unrelenting insistence.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A new entertainment, called "Man's Metamorphoses," was produced at the EGYPTIAN HALL on Monday last. The announcements give no clue to the author of the lecture or to the name of the gentleman who delivered it; but it is generally understood that Mr. W. Harrison, the singer, is the responsible *entrepreneur*. It is, perhaps, hardly fair to judge of the actual merit of the exhibition by the performance on Monday evening, as on that occasion everything went wrong. An accident was said to have occurred to certain machinery by which astounding optical effects were to have taken place, and the consequence of this accident was that almost every attempted effect was an absolute failure. The invention upon which this "entertainment" is founded appears to be an ingenious modification of the celebrated "ghost illusion;" and I believe that, under the name of "Eidos Aides," it was successfully introduced by Mr. W. Harrison in the pantomime produced by him at Her Majesty's Theatre last Christmas twelvemonth. The plan upon which the entertainment is made to assume a dramatic form has been for some time familiar to Polytechnic visitors: the lecturer reads a tale from a book, while the personages (real or shadowed, as the case may be) on the stage illustrate the narrative with what is intended for appropriate action. Although the apparatus was manifestly out of order, I saw enough of its working to satisfy myself that the invention is really ingenious, and one that, with the assistance of proper accessories, might be made fairly remunerative to its proprietor. But when a tall, thin, hectic young man, about twenty-four years of age, dressed in a white waistcoat, a tail coat, seedy trousers, a red necktie, long hair and a moustache, is submitted to the audience as a characteristic specimen of a hard-headed old merchant of fabulous wealth (which he keeps in a cash-box), it is pretty evident that the accident to the machinery should not be held wholly responsible for the failure of the exhibition. This merchant has a son of an imaginative turn of mind, much given to reading a work which was described by the lecturer as "Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales," but which was too evidently Mr. Boyle's *Court Guide*. The son's devotion to the *Court Guide* incensed his practical father, who, complained (not without a show of reason) that his son spent several hours every day over that handy but disconnected work, instead of applying himself to the more numerous duties of the counting-house. Upon this a fairy—the tutelary genius of Boyle, I suppose—appeared, and, mildly chiding the merchant for his devotion to money-making, proposed to introduce him to scenes of misery which it was in his power to relieve, if he felt disposed to make a proper use of the enormous fortune then in his cash-box. The merchant had no objection to this, and the fairy showed him a thin girl made fat, and an Italian patriot (who, I suppose, is in prison for debt) released, by the power of money. The merchant was convinced, and implied by "appropriate action" that he intended thenceforth to devote his stupendous wealth to the cause of charity. Another portion of the entertainment explains how, if you ever happen to conceal yourself inside a piano-case in a bower with a young lady, you can, by the assistance of the "Eidos Aides," explain the circumstance without compromising her reputation. A third portion, which proposed to treat of "Darwinism," was omitted, owing to a further derangement of the necessary machinery. By this time, perhaps, the whole thing is in good working order; but, whether it is or is not, the "appropriate action" of the British merchant will amply repay a visit.

A performance in aid of the family of the late Mr. C. Bennett will take place at the ADELPHI this (Saturday) afternoon. Mr. Bennett's extraordinary talent as a caricaturist is too well known to the readers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES to render it necessary that I should expatiate upon it. The performance will be a most attractive one in every respect, and the audience will have an opportunity of seeing Mr. Mark Lemon, Mr. Tenniel, Mr. Burnand, Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. Shirley Brooks, Mr. Du Maurier, and Mr. Harold Power under novel circumstances. Miss Kate Terry and her sister, Mrs. Watts, have kindly offered their services, and the Moray Minstrels, celebrated in private musical circles, will sing madrigals, glees, and part-songs between the pieces. The programme includes an operetta founded on "Box and Cox," and called "Cox and Box," written by Mr. Burnand, with original music by Mr. Arthur Sullivan; Mr. Tom Taylor's drama, "A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing;" and the famous *bouffonnerie musicale* called "Les Deux Aveugles."

Miss Kate Terry reappears at the ADELPHI, on Monday next, in "Henry Dunbar," originally produced at the Olympic. Miss Glyn will appear, in "Antony and Cleopatra," at the PRINCESS, on Wednesday next. A drama by Mr. Tom Taylor will shortly be produced at the HOLBORN THEATRE.

AN OMNIBUS PROBLEM.—The Manchester General Omnibus Company are engaged in solving a very knotty problem, "How to save £8000 a year?" They have been recently prosecuting guards for not paying over the receipts from passengers. The prosecutions have not been very satisfactory, but they have brought about confessions and declarations from employes who have shared in the plunder which have fairly startled them. For instance, a driver has confessed that for years past the guards have handed him over 4s. per day as his share of the embezzled fares. A man on the Guards and Drivers' Club sick-list, having had his allowance stopped, has written to make a similar confession of past participation in rascality. The manager estimates that £8000 a year has thus failed to reach the hands of the company. Mr. Heyworth, the manager, has invented a simple but ingenious method of giving tickets torn from an endless roll inserted in a revolving case with progressive numbers, which may do much to check such frauds, if it does not entirely cure the evil.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT NEWCASTLE.—On Monday a great sculling-race between Chambers of Newcastle, and Kelly of London, took place on the Tyne, in which the latter obtained an easy victory. The match attracted a vast number of persons to the banks of the river. Many of the spectators came by steam-boat from Shields and elsewhere, and when the race was over they crowded on to the landing-stages at Quay-side, against which the steam-boats were moored. These stages are large floating keels, placed some distance from the quay wall, opposite the Broad Chare, and access to them is gained by means of two gangways or loose bridges from the quay to each of the floats. On Monday evening several river steamers were moored to the stage, and were to be filled and dispatched one by one. The passengers were admitted on to the floating-stage only in sufficient number to fill one boat, then the stream of people was stopped at the outlet on to the stage of the gangway. On to this narrow bridge the crowd pressed, and stood waiting to pass on to the pier to the ticket-box when their turn should come. The gangway was about 80 ft. long, and was constructed principally of iron, supported on two heavy wooden beams. It is estimated that at least one hundred people—mostly young men, but a few women and boys—were crowded closely on the bridge, thronging the passage from end to end. When, just before seven o'clock, the structure gave way, at about 8 ft. from the float, nearly all of those on the bridge were suddenly thrown into the river in one mass. It was ebb tide at the time, and the strong current swept many directly under the stage and beneath the craft near, after which they were not seen, but the majority of those in the water clung together in a desperate and fearful death struggle. Some who were strong swimmers struck out firmly, but were seized and dragged back as one by one the drowning persons clutched them. Many unquestionably lost their lives solely in consequence of this frightful, inevitable confusion. There was comparatively little shouting among the poor people in the water. Upon the shore, where thousands were assembled, the excitement was intense, and brave efforts were instantly made to succour. Some of the drowning people succeeded in getting hold of the broken gangway, and others clung to boats and whatever they could seize in the river. These were soon saved. Several men from the shore, watching their opportunity, sprang into the stream and heroically rescued those who were drowning. One lad who had himself been dragged from the river went in again and again to save others, and thus brought five to shore, when he fell exhausted. Some small boats were used, and by these means twenty lives were saved. Oars, spars, and boat-hooks were cast into the water; but those who were able to seize the frail supports were in most instances dragged under by others who clutched them. One woman was saved who had lost the child from her arms. When the place became comparatively still dragging was commenced. By ten o'clock three corpses had been recovered—two boys and a female infant, apparently about eight months old; it was quite naked. An umbrella and a piece of green ribbon also were brought up by the grapples; but up to the date of our latest accounts no more bodies have been found. In all probability the corpses have been swept away by the strong tide.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS CHRISTIAN was churched in the private chapel at Windsor Castle on Monday morning. The Dean of Windsor officiated. Their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian took possession of their new residence at Frogmore House on Tuesday.

THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT will be Lord Lieutenant of Monmouthshire in the place of the late Lord Llanover.

LORD BROUGHAM is expected home from his villa at Cannes in a week or two. On his return to London he will take up his residence at the mansion recently occupied by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres in Berkeley-square.

M. RATAZZY has received fifteen cartels from persons whom his wife has satirised in a novel.

MR. J. POPE HENNESSY, late M.P. for King's County, has been offered the governorship of Labuan and the consul-generalship of Borneo. The salary of the joint offices is £1100 per annum.

MR. ARNOLD, the magistrate at the Westminster Police Court, has decided that loan societies are not entitled to exact or take fines from a borrower or his sureties on the non-payment of instalments of the debt.

THE PRELIMINARY MEETING of the Luxemburg Conference took place, on Tuesday, at the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury, in Downing-street. Lord Stanley is the President of the Conference, which sat again on Thursday.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, it is said, have arrived at the determination not to carry out the sentence of the law on the Fenian convicts Burke and Doran.

MR. DICKENS, it is expected, will soon revisit the United States, and give a series of readings from his own works in the chief cities.

A DRAMA, founded on Mr. Charles Reade's "Griffith Gaunt," has been produced at Newcastle-on-Tyne, under the author's superintendence—previously, it may be presumed, to its being presented in the metropolis.

MR. MARSHALL WOOD'S "Statue from the Song of the Shirt," which was expected to have been exhibited in London this season, will shortly be sent to Paris, a space having been reserved for it in the English picture gallery.

THE ALBERT MEDAL has been divided into two classes. The distinction between the decorations consists in the width of the ribbon and the colour of the medal.

THE FENIAN TRIALS in DUBLIN are still going on, and several other prisoners have been found guilty. In most cases sentence was deferred, pending the decision of certain legal points reserved.

RUSSIA has proposed to the Scandinavian, Danish, and English Governments that the Baltic shall be declared neutral in time of war.

THE LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY has raised its fares, in some cases 50 per cent. The fares on the Metropolitan Railway have also been increased from 50 to 75 per cent.

A GREAT QUANTITY of HUMAN BONES have been dug up at Taunton, which are supposed to be the remains of persons killed in the civil wars during the reign of Charles I.

MISS BATEMAN, the celebrated actress (who recently married Dr. Crow), is about to return to Europe, with the view of settling in England.

SIR RICHARD STEELE'S COTTAGE on Haverstock-hill has just been demolished. Doctors' commons is also in course of destruction for the new street from Blackfriars to the Mansion House.

ROOD ASHTON PARK, near Trowbridge, in Wiltshire, has been thrown open for the use of the public of the neighbourhood by Mr. R. P. Long, M.P.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS to assist French workmen to visit and study the Paris Exhibition already exceed £4000. The Society of Arts have started a subscription with 100 gs. to assist British workmen in like manner, and desire to receive subscriptions.

THE RAILWAYS OF IRELAND conveyed more than 1092 tons of salmon in the year 1866—an increase of 301 tons, or about 37 per cent, over the quantity carried in 1865.

TWENTY-TWO LARGE STEAMERS are advertised to arrive at Southampton from New York, or to leave Southampton for New York during the present month. The steamers will sail under the Bremen, Hamburg, and United States flags.

THE SPEAKER has promoted Mr. Howard, the assistant librarian, to the office of librarian, and has appointed Mr. Hearn, the secretary and librarian of the late Marquis of Lansdowne, to the office of assistant librarian. Some delay has occurred in completing these appointments in consequence of the necessity of the revision of the establishment.

THE FINAL INTERCHANGE OF THE RATIFICATIONS of the treaties of friendship, commerce, and navigation between the Italian and Hawaiian kingdoms by the respective Plenipotentiaries, the Marquis d'Azeglio and Sir John Bowring, took place, at the Italian Legation, on the 3rd inst.

THE MAIN DRAINAGE WORKS of Brussels, to be constructed by the Belgian Public Works Company, were inaugurated on Monday by the King and Queen, accompanied by the Count and Countess of Flanders, the Ministers, and municipal authorities.

A THEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION on social toleration of Roman Catholics cropped up at Camberwell vestry last week. Mr. John Grumman started it with words to the effect that it was "encouraging the worship of the devil and his angels" to pave a footway before a Catholic chapel. A long "debate" ensued; but common charity at last prevailed, aided by the appeal, "Recollect, gentlemen, they are men and ratepayers!"

A LABOURER NAMED GEORGE HUNT was fined £5 last week by the magistrates of Melksham, in Wilts, for taking a hare without a license. A keeper saw the hare in a trap with its legs broken, and watched it struggling in agony for four hours, when Hunt came for it and was apprehended. The magistrates severely censured the cruelty of the keeper in not killing the hare and putting it out of its misery.

MR. HODGSON PRATT has made arrangements with the English and French railways, with the Imperial Commissioners, and with certain provisions, under which 200 workmen per week may go to Paris, live in a pleasant hall, spend a week sight-seeing, and come back again for 30s. All they will have to purchase for themselves is their food and an Exhibition ticket, and Mr. Pratt estimates the total cost at about £3 for the week.

THE PROCEEDINGS in HYDE PARK on Monday evening were witnessed by a large number of gentlemen, many of whom rode on horseback about the crowd entirely unmolested. Amongst them were Earl Granville, the Earl of Lucan, Viscount Halifax, the Marquis of Sligo, Captain Grosvenor, M.P.; Sir Mordaunt Wells; Colonel Knox, M.P.; Mr. R. N. Fowler, Lord Chief Justice Bovill, Mr. Justice Montagu Smith, and Mr. Leo Schuster.

THE STUDENTS of the Quartier Latin, Paris, have published List No. 1 of the hotels where the charges have been raised. At the same time they publish a list of those whose proprietors have not altered their tariff. Both the public and the press applaud this attempt to "bell the cat," and some of the papers go so far as to insert in their columns a letter from the "committee of action," containing the lists in question.

MR. E. K. KARSNAKE, Q.C., M.P., has written to a contemporary, remarking that he has no doubt that members of the House are daily receiving numerous suggestions as to the female franchise. But he has been especially amazed by a request lately made to him by a lady—the wife of a non-elect, but a "good mother"—who desired him to take care, in case Mr. Mill succeeded in obtaining the franchise for women, to move, by way of amendment to his proposal, that no woman who has not nursed all her own children shall be entitled to vote.

A MEETING OF OLD AND PRESENT RUGBIANS was held at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday last, for the purpose of adopting means to celebrate the tercentenary of that great scholastic institution, by founding scholarships, building additional school-rooms, and in other ways ministering to the comfort and well-being of the boys. The Bishop Elect of Rochester presided. Dr. Temple gave an outline of the projected improvements; and a committee was appointed to give effect to the resolutions which were adopted.

THE AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' STRIKE IN BUCKS.—The secretary of the Gawcott Agricultural Labourers' Strike Fund reports that during the past week he has been able to make arrangements for the removal to other parts of the country at advanced wages, and for the emigration to distant colonies, of nearly one hundred of the farm labourers of Gawcott and the vicinity who are dissatisfied with the present rate of wages. The movement for an advance of remuneration appears to be on the increase throughout the northern portion of Bucks, and the consequence is a general scarcity of labour. The farmers of Birtton, Aston Abbots, North Marston, and other important agricultural centres have been compelled, through this scarcity, to raise the scale of wages of their farm-servants 1s. per week, and it is expected that the agricultural employers in other districts of the county will shortly have to adopt the same course. Meanwhile, the labourers are organising, and the Agricultural Labourers' Protection Union at Missenden is acquiring strength daily. The committee have drawn up a code of provisional rules to guide their proceedings, and they say "their determination is at present to proceed on the defensive, and imitate, as far as possible, the strategy of the Gawcott committee—viz., to gradually send away labourers to places where they can obtain higher wages. This (they say) will ultimately decide the question as to whether the farmers can or cannot afford to give an advance of wages. One labourer has been discharged because he acknowledged belonging to the society, and his master threatened to discharge any man who worked for him if he belonged to it. Fortunately for the man employed, he obtained employment from a neighbouring farmer on the following morning at an advance of 1s. per week and two pints of cider a day, and his present master gives 1s. a week to the funds, and has promised to contribute a similar amount weekly as long as the society is conducted in a peaceable manner." The assistance of the tradesmen and others in the locality, solicited by persons appointed by the committee, has been liberally rendered, and a school-room has been placed at the use of the committee, free of rent, for carrying on the strike.

FINE ARTS.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

FIRST NOTICE.

THE most cursory glance round the rooms of the Academy this year is sufficient to prove that the display is far better than that of 1866, perhaps than those of several previous seasons. Of course there are pictures on the walls that we could spare without regret, and we miss some meritorious ones that were to be seen at the studios. But the pictures that are well placed are so good as a whole that exclusion is no disgrace, especially when it is remembered that the line is the property of the R.A.S., some of whom would have done well to study the extract from Browne's "Religio Medici" printed on the catalogue title, "Nature is not at variance with Art, nor Art with Nature."

We shall follow our usual practice of "room-to-room visitation," commencing with the East Room, in which the place of honour is given to Sir Edwin Landseer's picture of "Her Majesty at Osborne in 1866." It is to be regretted that a painter of Sir Edwin's eminence should have descended to the flattery of painting the Queen as if she were barely thirty. The animals are admirably done. It is a curious coincidence that the horse and the dogs are all black, as if Her Majesty had extended the Court mourning to her four-footed favourites. In his "Cattle" (144) and "Deer" (121) Sir Edwin displays his old breadth and force. Mr. Goodall gives us another Oriental scene, "Rebekah" (8), full of fine drawing and masterly colouring. It is a pity that he should have selected the same model for this picture as he had for Hagar last year. Mr. Millais is represented in this room by a pair of children's portraits—"Sleeping" (65) and "Waking" (74). Both are charming, but the former pleases us best. The painting of the quilted coverlid is a triumph of imitative skill. Mr. Frith returns to his old style in "The Last Sunday of Charles II." (132). It is a little scattered in composition and disturbed in colour, and the figure of Evelyn is weak; but there are fine passages in it, and the female figures are delicious. Mr. Leighton's "Pastoral" (34) is very pleasing. A sunburnt shepherd is teaching one of those exquisitely-complexioned, blush-ivory damsels that only Mr. Leighton can create, how to purse her pretty mouth and crook her taper fingers to the double-reed. We could wish a trifle more definition in the drawing of the foreshortened left arm. Mr. Hook refreshes us with two of his breezy, briny sea-pieces. "Digging for Sand Eels" (91) abounds in truth of colour, marvellous painting of sand, water, and sky, and wonderful suggestion of air. "Mother Carey's Chickens" (138) gives us a fisherman and his boys pulling to shore, warned of the approach of storm by the petrels. It is presumptuous to question Mr. Hook's painting of sea; but it strikes us that the wave on the crest of which the boat is poised wants transparency somewhat. Mr. Poole's "Lear" (59) has admirable passages, but the pose of Cordelia is strained. Mr. Elmore's "Women on the Housetop" (183) is in his best style. We trust we may argue his restoration to health from the undiminished power this picture displays. Mr. T. Faed's "The Poor, the Poor Man's Friend" (107), in which a fisherman gives a share of his scant purse to a blind beggar, is after the style of that best of all his paintings, "The Mitherless Bairn." Mr. Charles Landseer's "Cromwell" (55) is cold and chalky; Mr. Ward's "Juliet" (80) is stagey in the last degree. Mr. Macclise's "Othello" (123) is not the best picture he has painted, but it is very superior to "A Winter's Tale" (206), with its white firelight. Mr. Horsley's "Lady Jane Grey" (143) is not his best example this year. Mr. Herbert's "St. Edmund" (158) is scarcely up to the artist's ordinary standard. Mr. Orchardson's "Talbot and the Countess of Auvergne" (18) is a worthy companion of his "Hamlet."

Mr. Yeames has in this room "Bread and Water" (139), a mediæval urchin condemned to the immemorial punishment of short commons for some misdemeanour. It is well painted, though the subject is rather small for the canvas. Mr. Pettie's "Doctor" (25) is truly admirable. The figure of the child who refuses to be tempted, even by the offer of a rosy apple, into submitting her tongue for medical inspection is perfection. "Domestic Medicine" (167), by Mr. Webster, is a kindred subject; but his "Watching a Difficult Operation" (153) is a better work, full of humour. "Washing Day" (40), by Mr. Hardy, is another homely subject, treated with the skill and honesty that have made for this rising artist a deserved reputation. Mr. Holl, another painter rapidly advancing into notice, is well represented by "Convalescent" (232), the simple truth of which will appeal at once to the sympathies of that very large public, the lovers of children.

Mr. Mason exhibits "Evening" (202), a girl returning from gleaming—one of the best things we have ever seen of his. Mr. Leslie's "Cousins" (5) and "Ten Minutes to Decide" (131), though perhaps too subdued in colour, are works calculated to strengthen his position in the peculiar line he has adopted. Mr. A. Moore's "Musicians" (235) is painted in the low key he always works in, and forms a pleasant change after the garish hues of some of its neighbours. The drawing is exceedingly fine. Mr. Whistler exhibits, besides a fine view of "Battersea" (243), a curious exercise entitled "A Symphony in White" (233). It is marked "Number Three," from which we may conclude that the others of the series have not been hung. This is to be regretted, as, of course, the harmony is lost. It is a picture that will not please the general public, but will be thoroughly appreciated by those who have a knowledge of art. We question whether Mr. Phillip's "Nannie" (152) and "Highland Lassie" (166) should have been exhibited. They want a final "painting on," and without all that is thereby implied, will hardly do justice to his memory in the eyes of the uninitiated.

In this room there will be found "The Missal" (230), by Mr. Tourneur; "Last Touches" (222), by Mr. Goldie; "The Stinging-Nettle" (19), by Mr. Smallfield; and "A Quiet Morning" (101), by Mr. Topham—all of them worthy of note. We may also mention Mr. Rossiter's "Swan" (156), Miss Brett's "Field Mice" (37), Mr. Hicks's "Navy" (119), and Mr. Barber's "First at the Fence" (116), which is a clever bit of drawing, but scarcely a pleasing composition. Mr. Legros's "Study of a Head" (42) has whatever merit belongs to a somewhat servile imitation of the Old Masters; Mr. S. Solomon's "Bacchus" (113) may perhaps deserve its position, but it is beyond the reach of any critical eye that does not happen to be telescopic.

In landscape, the East Room can boast three of Mr. C. G. S. Wicks' admirable pictures, of which "Up the Glen" (49) is perhaps the finest. Mr. C. J. Lewis is represented by "A Kentish Mill" (105)—a vividly-truthful view—and by "A Sheepfold in Autumn" (136). Mr. Cooke's "Canal at Venice" (223) is fully worthy of his fame. Mr. Redgrave's "Treasury of Waters" (90) is better than usual, but somewhat crude in colour. Mr. Edwards's "Druids" (70), Mr. Oakes's "Burning the Water" (9), and Mr. Newton's "Bit of Nature" (52) deserve a passing word of praise. Mr. Brennan, a young painter of much promise, exhibits a "Courtyard at Capri" (219), that is full of merit.

Among the marine-painters Mr. Starsfield, of course, claims the foremost mention. His "Skirmish off Heligoland" (199) proves that the veteran can still hold his own well. Mr. Naish's "Mouth of the Harbour" (20) is a faithful rescript of nature. Mr. Dix, who, we believe, is a son of the distinguished American General, and has himself borne arms in the service of his country, proves that he can ably wield the peaceful brush, in his view of "Les Analetes" (182). The portraits muster in force in this room. As a rule, they do not merit criticism or mention. But there are exceptions. Mr. Phillip's "Antonia" (19) is a grand picture; and such graceful paintings as those of Mr. Sant, "Master Combe" (66) and "Alice and Eleanor" (75) cannot be classed as mere portraits. Mr. Watts's "Dean Stanley" (207) is a portrait, but a portrait of the very highest class, and on that account demands recognition that must be withheld from feeble and less conscientious attempts. Mr. Grant's "Duchess of Sutherland" (183) is only noticeable for the capital dogs in it. They might be (is it possible that they are?)—the catalogue is silent from the brush of Sir Edwin Landseer himself. Mr. Martineau is a painter whose work we see only too rarely, and we therefore welcome "Bertie" (176) warmly.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

Our Engravings this week represent some of the most prominent resorts of the visitors to the Grand Palace of Industry, where idlers in Paris are made to undergo tortures of hard work and consequent fatigue.

Two of the greatest external attractions at present, in as far as anything can be attractive to tired wayfarers, who seek a seat and have to pay for the privilege of rest as well as for refreshment, are the Russian restaurant and the Tunisian café. The latter, which is attached to the house of the Bey, is distinguished by a native concert—that is to say, four languid Tunisians, three on a couch and one on a chair, scrape, strum, and rub-a-dub native tunes with a monotonous regularity perfectly maddening to the tired visitors, who, having previously made the tour of all the sights, are “ready to drop,” and suddenly find themselves in this semi-Oriental apartment with four apathetic, lazy individuals monopolising a paradise of soft cushions. Visions of Algiers come across the traveller as he plunges suddenly into this shady retreat; recollections of tawdry shawls, of coarse cotton and tinsel filigree, of amber pipe-stems, catfans, strange fruits, stranger vegetables, mock jewels, painted coffee-cups, orange-groves, tree-laurels, sour whey, black coffee, kid’s flesh, and “a variety of articles,” as auctioneers’ catalogues say. Not that one had need to go to Algiers to be acquainted with these things. The Palais Royal will do just as well, or whence do we get the green peas, the big tender early lettuces, the great blood oranges, the prickly pears, the peaches, and all the vegetable productions at the restaurants? There are all sorts of bric-a-brac shops in the locality referred to; but the Algerian dépôts have made quite a new feature there, and the world of Paris know all about Tunis without going through the Goletta—that is to say, they know what is eaten, drank, and avoided; what is worn, smoked, and sat upon. The Algerians can teach them that much, although Algiers, as a place, is vastly different to Tunis. Less disappointing, perhaps, because, for all its wonderful dazzling whiteness, its long ranges of building, and its marvellous modern Saracenic Palace of the Bey, it is, like most barbarian cities, an evil-smelling, dirty sham; but still similar, in its habits, customs, and association with embroidery, morocco leather, red caps, essences of musk, rose, and jasmine, oil, wax, sponges, senna, elephants’ teeth, and tunny-fish. All we wanted was music,

and here we have it, at the Tunisian café, in company with a big water-bottle and a couple of goblets.

A very different affair is the Russian restaurant, formed, if we may credit people of experience, on the very best model of St. Petersburg; and assuredly it is better than those dirty eating-houses of the Muscovite capital, where the steam of dreadful stews runs into greasy streaks upon the greasy walls, and the dim oil-lamps blink at dingy pictures of saints. The eating-houses of the common people these are, while this is the *crème de la crème*; or, considering the great Russian beverage, let us say the *thé de la thé*, for strong drinks are not the vice of the noble Muscovite, in public, at least, any more than of the virtuous peasant. Tea, with only an occasional debauch on that fiery corn spirit, which maddens even frozen blood; and tea with interludes of “Cluquot” and pink champagne of sweet brands—these are the beverages of the Russ. At this restaurant there is, of course, pink champagne; but there is tea. There

of the luxury of the modern Tartar, may be had at this resort, with plenty of bright-jacketed waiters to serve it.

There is yet another Russian attraction, however, in the range of stables in the Champ de Mars for the exhibition of horses. It is, perhaps, a little surprising that the owners of these magnificent creatures should have ventured to bring them to the French capital, in the very face of the hippophagists; and should one of the superb stallions meet with an accident, there is no doubt that his carcass will find buyers at a couple of francs a pound for prime cuts. But at present public interest is aroused every day at three o’clock, and a large assembly is always at the stables to see the fine creatures brought out for exercise; this, in fact, is one of the liveliest scenes of the Exhibition, has received special attention from the Russian Commission, and will be sure to engage the interest of Louis Napoleon and his Master of Horse. The stables, which have been copied from the buildings devoted to the Imperial stud at

may be—nay, let us boldly say there are—cognac, vodka, “ouiski,” aniseed, and what-not; but there is assuredly tea. If the Exhibition does no other good, it may be instrumental in introducing tea into Paris, and the Parisians may acquire a taste for the beverage, and even learn how to prepare it. Of course, it is not the dirty coarse cake tea of the peasantry that finds its way into the vast vase which crowns the comptoir of the Restaurant Russe. And the best tea goes from China to Russia direct, as well it may; for tea, in Moscow and St. Petersburg, is made in gallons and drunk from tumblers, hot and cold, and tepid, and even iced, not with milk, but with sugar and lemon. The Restaurant Russe is, therefore, great in tea; and doubtless a real Russian dinner could be obtained by ordering it beforehand, though it may be doubted whether they keep “Batania,” or yellow soup of sturgeon, cucumber, and mustard “always ready.” The Russians likely to visit the great show are used to a French cuisine, or, at all events, to Muscovite dishes tempered with French cookery. They care little for cabbage soup or buckwheat pudding, and have, perhaps, deserted even the universal mushroom for “suprême de volaille,” or turkey and truffles. And yet cabbage soup is still eaten in high places, while the dram before dinner has never yet been neglected in Russian society. Probably a huge cauldron of *tschi* is kept in the lower regions for emergencies. At all events, a very excellent dinner, and one suggestive



MUSICIANS IN THE TUNISIAN CAFÉ AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.



THE RUSSIAN RESTAURANT AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

St. Petersburg, are under the direction of General Möerder, assisted by M. Kopteff and M. Siniavine; while the arrangements for a very admirable display of Russian carriages, bridles, and harness were made by M. Ignatoff, who has succeeded in giving a prominent position to the equipages for which his countrymen are celebrated.

Perhaps the American machinery department, of which we publish an illustration, at present commands the largest share of interest in connection with mechanical contrivances. The decorations of the department itself offer a gorgeous contrast to the plainer and more matter-of-fact ornamentation, or rather want of ornament, in the British section. Then there is the great planing machine by Sellers, of Philadelphia; and that very attractive machine for making moulds in papier-mâché for stereotype castings. At this marvellous engine the compositor sits at a sort of mechanical pianoforte, and plays not notes but shapes. At the depression of each key, a type impresses its form on the soft paper, and against the face of the matrix, thus formed, the type metal is cast to make the stereotype plate. No doubt our readers will remember what a favourite object the great dash wheel of the big water-mill was in our last great Exhibition, and how a concourse of hot and tired visitors was always to be found looking at the broad stream that fell, cooling the air and sprinkling a fine spray all round. It would almost seem that the water machinery in the American department is attractive for the same reason; but, in truth, there are so many interesting mechanical objects there, and the department itself is so decorated, that it is likely to maintain its position as one of the great features of the show, and is never without a crowd of wondering admirers.

THE BRIBERY BILL.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer's bill for the more effectual prevention of corrupt practices and undue influence at Parliamentary elections is before us, and seems to prove that the Conservative party are sincere in their professions of a desire for purity in elections. It is long and very clumsily drawn, but the pith of its provisions, which naturally divide themselves into two main branches, the investigation and the punishment, may be stated shortly as enabling the eye of justice to be more searching and its hand more heavy. When a petition is presented against the return of any candidate to a seat in Parliament it is to be referred to three commissioners, to be chosen by the Speaker from a panel. This panel is to be formed in anticipation by the Speaker from persons "willing, and, in his opinion, able," to perform the duties, and the Speaker is not to consider any person "able" unless he is a barrister or serjeant-at-law of not less than seven years' standing, and in actual practice, or fills, or has filled, certain judicial offices. This troop of commissioners will be kept in constant readiness to be let loose by the Speaker upon any county or borough that may have drawn upon itself the penalties of a visitation, and the drawer of the bill does not appear to expect any reluctance on the part of the commissioners themselves to be ordered off at a moment's notice; for by the terms they are not to be consulted as to their willingness to serve, or as to what time or place will suit them best for the inquiry. These are to be appointed by the returning officer, and at such time and place the commissioners "shall proceed to investigate the charges contained in the petition." In the course of this inquiry they are to have the powers of a judge of the superior courts to send for and examine persons and papers, and, in order to induce the former to open their mouths, they are armed with authority to

commit to prison for not more than three months; and the indemnity provided by 26 and 27 Vict. c. 29 is to apply to witnesses examined before them. In their report they are to say whether the candidate returned was or was not guilty of the charges preferred against him, and particularly whether personally or by his agents.

Now for the punishment. If the candidate is personally guilty of bribery, treating, or undue influence, besides any penalties which the existing law may attach to him, he cannot, if this be his first offence, be elected or sit in the House for five years; and if it be a second conviction, he can never corrupt the pure atmosphere of that assembly so long as life remains to him. Guilt by agents is not to entail more than the invalidity of this election and an incapacity to represent this particular county or borough in this particular Parliament. But even though no bribery occur, yet if he knowingly employs at any election the services of any person who has been or may hereafter be found guilty of corruption by any of the tribunals competent to arrive at such a discovery, his election is void. We presume that this awkward expression "may hereafter be" means "has made himself liable to be legally found guilty." With this interpretation the clause seems as just as it ought to be effective, and its operation might usefully be extended by making it an offence, punishable on summary conviction, in any agent so previously convicted to be employed in any election. The provision as to the persons bribed is in comparison feeble and halting. Their names, except where they have received certificates of indemnity, are to be reported to the Speaker, and with the evidence laid before the Attorney-General, with a view to his prosecuting them if he thinks he is likely to obtain a conviction. What is the use of this? The Attorney-General would probably not prosecute a tenth part of the culprits; and if he did, the process is slow, expensive, and uncertain. The Act of 1863 provided the same remedy, and we know how worthless it has proved. If the desire to put down bribery be sincere, surely not the least effective mode is to get rid of everybody who has taken a bribe. This would be done by giving the commissioners power to make every such person for ever

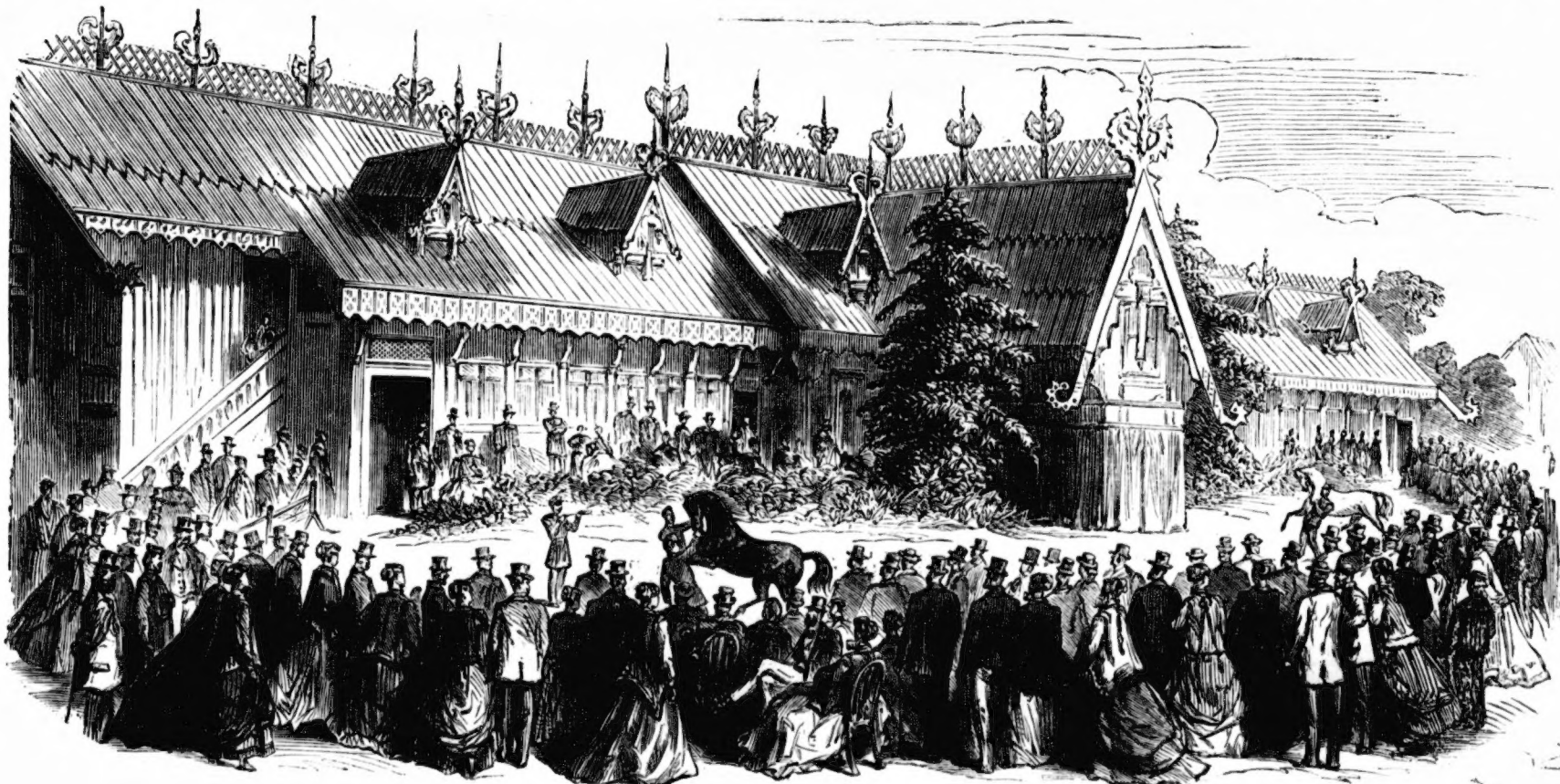
took down in his notes, which is unintelligible and absurd.

If the appeal is to be anything more than nominal, why should not the Committee have the power of satisfying their minds on any point where the notes are doubtful or deficient? We are arguing in the dark, for the bill does not give one the faintest clue as to the nature of the grounds upon which the House should grant an appeal. The most substantial and the most probable ground would be that the commissioners had taken a partial view of the evidence, in which case it would be essential that the court of appeal should have the liberty to judge for itself of the demeanour of the witnesses, but the bill seems expressly to take away the liberty. The clause, in fact, enables and disables exactly in the wrong places. The main object of the bill is to provide a more speedy, effective, impartial tribunal than the present Election Committee. The resort to the House, therefore, should never be allowed except where there has been a palpable miscarriage of justice. The bill should clearly specify the nature of the ground upon which alone the appeal may be granted, yet upon this it preserves absolute silence.

Ample powers as to costs are conferred upon the commissioners. Their salaries and expenses are to be paid by the Treasury; but if corruption has prevailed extensively, they are to be part of the expenses of the returning officer, and defrayed according to 6 Vict. c. 18. In other words, they are to be paid out of the poor rate in boroughs, and out of the county rate in counties. Surely this is a great mistake. The ratepayers as such cannot prevent bribery, and to mulct them in the costs is to punish the guilty and innocent alike. Why should not the guilty candidates, agents, and voters be fined heavily to supply the funds? Those witnesses who have been coaxed to divulge by a certificate of indemnity must, of course, be spared; but all the rest of the voters should be compelled to disgorge, and the more extensive the corruption the more sweeping should be the restitution. With this exception, the commissioners may apportion the costs of the proceedings among the parties to the petition exactly as they think proper, and their certificate is to be conclusive evidence of a debt from one party to the other.



INTERIOR OF THE RUSSIAN STABLES IN THE CHAMPS DE MARS, PARIS.



DAILY EXERCISE OF RUSSIAN HORSES.

incapable of voting for any county or borough, and to inflict a fine of treble or quadruple the amount of the bribe or its estimated value, to be levied by distress. The proceeds might go towards defraying the expenses of the inquiry; and this simple provision would, if faithfully carried out, in the course of time leave a residuum of incorruptible electors.

But these are not all the powers of the commissioners. They may, where the seat is claimed for any disappointed candidate, report whether or not he also has been guilty of bribery, and, if not, whether or not he has a majority of legal votes; and they are to say whether corruption has "prevailed extensively" in the place in question. Though they have exclusive jurisdiction over all petitions in the first instance, their decision is not final. Within fourteen days after their report has been laid on the table any member may move that it be referred to an election Committee, and, if the House so resolve, it is to be treated like an election petition of the present day, with two important exceptions. First, the petitioner (why not also the respondent?) must prove that he has paid all costs due from him on account of the inquiry by the commissioners; secondly, no evidence shall be received "except that taken by a shorthand writer" before the commissioners. Probably this means that the only evidence shall be the shorthand writer's notes, which is intelligible, though strange; but it may mean that the witnesses shall not be asked any questions or allowed to give any answers except those which the shorthand writer

These are the main features of a bill which has forty-six sections and three schedules. In form it is unwieldy, inaccurate, and often ambiguous. Some of the clauses appear to have been drawn by a person who had never seen the others, and the division into preliminary and supplemental provisions is inartistic. There are a number of blots, and among them is the omission to enact that no member of Parliament shall be a commissioner. In spite of its many defects, however, the bill tends in the right direction to make the tribunal cheap, speedy, and effective. The commission must be actually sitting within five or six weeks of the presentation of the petition, and, as it will no doubt usually sit on the spot, the expenses of the witnesses will be much less. The tribunal, too, will, if fairly chosen, be free from many of those objections which render Parliamentary committees a byword and a reproach. If this measure receive that pruning which it so much wants, with some extension of liberty to the commission to punish summarily corrupt voters, more will have been done to check corruption than most senators expect or even desire.—*Law Journal*.

THE OPERA.

ON Saturday evening Mdle. Adelina Patti made her first appearance in London this season, at the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden, as Rosina, in the "Barber of Seville." Mdle. Patti's exquisitely beautiful voice, having nothing to gain in purity, has nevertheless gained in richness of tone, and her singing, perfect before, is perfect still. Nothing could have been more charming than her singing of the first, except her singing of the second, movement of the cavatina. From the termination of the former to the commencement of the latter the applause was continuous, and was apparently intended to be looked upon as an encore, in which light, however, Mdle. Patti very properly did not choose to consider it. We will not follow Mdle. Patti piece by piece through the opera, as though we had watched her for the sake of noticing points of excellence where all was alike excellent. By way of information, however, it must be mentioned that in the scene of the music-lesson the airs of Mdle. Patti's choice were the bolero from Verdi's "Vêpres Siciliennes," which Mdle. Sophie Cruvelli used to sing with so much effect when the opera was first brought out in Paris, and this being, as a matter of course, redemanded, the English ballad of "Home, Sweet Home" was substituted. The singing of this ballad on such an occasion as Mdle. Patti's return is always accepted—and is no doubt intended—as a special and significant compliment. At all events, London will now be Mdle. Patti's home until the end of the opera season—a fact on which we congratulate ourselves, the public, and also Mr. Gye. Signor Mario did not particularly exert himself on Saturday evening. Why should he? It was Mdle. Patti's first night; and Rosina was the heroine, without Count Almaviva being the hero, of the night. But everyone knows that Signor Mario, as Almaviva, is incomparable; and it was, perhaps, from a just consciousness that such Almavivas are rare that he, on this occasion, took such care of himself. Signor Cotogni is not a very humorous Figaro; nor are his merits as a singer such as to compensate for his deficiencies as a comic actor. In serious parts he is probably better. Signor Ciampi, the Don Bartolo of the evening, possesses what is called "dry humour," which is very like a contradiction of terms. He certainly strives to render the character of Bartolo amusing, and is perfectly familiar with all the "business" of the part. In "The Barber of Seville," as in all other operas, the band, under the direction of M. Costa, is everything that can be desired.

Since the opening of the Royal Italian Opera, now nearly a month ago, every variety of work has been produced—Bellini's "Norma," Auber's "Fra Diavolo," Gounod's "Faust," Meyerbeer's "Africaine," Auber's "Masaniello," and Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera." "Masaniello" is one of those choral and spectacular pieces which have always been given with such remarkable completeness at the Royal Italian Opera. But "Masaniello," whatever justice may be rendered to it in other respects, does most certainly require the services of an excellent tenor; and Signor Naudin, owing in some measure perhaps to his recent indisposition, has not shown himself quite strong enough for the part. The music of Pietro, more especially the very beautiful barcarolle of the last act, is sung by Signor Graziani to perfection.

Full justice is done to the light, brilliant music of the soprano part by Mdme. Lemmens-Sherrington, whose talent is now constantly in requisition. But the true heroine of "Masaniello" is Fenella, the dumb girl. This prima donna, who for the best reason in the world does not sing a note, is now represented at the Royal Italian Opera by Mdle. Mora, a débutante of considerable promise. The "Marriage of Figaro" has also been performed. The cast of the "Marriage of Figaro" differs in some respects from that of last season. The part of the Countess is now taken by Mdle. Fricki, and M. Petit replaces M. Faure as Figaro. With these exceptions, the last year's distribution of characters is maintained—Mdme. Lemmens-Sherrington undertaking the rôle of Susanna, Signor Graziani that of the Count. But the soul of the opera is Cherubino, and Cherubino is still impersonated by Mdle. Pauline Lucca, who brings out all the gaiety, the *espiglerie*, naïveté, and youthful amorosness of the part in the most charming manner.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION AND THE CHAIR-LETTING CONCESSION.—At the Civil Tribunal of the Seine, a few days back, an application for an injunction was made by M. Bernard, who holds the concession of letting chairs for hire at the Great Exhibition. A number of the proprietors of cafés and refreshment-stalls in the external gallery of the building have placed chairs for the accommodation of their customers outside their locations, as is done by the keepers of similar establishments on the boulevards of Paris. This proceeding M. Bernard considers as an infringement on his privilege, for which he had paid a considerable sum; and, in order to try the question, he assigned two of them, M. Ronzé and M. Fanta, before the above-named Court, and at the same time demanded authorisation to remove the seats in question with the assistance of the police if necessary. The Judge, however, declared himself incompetent to interpret the concessions granted by the Imperial Commission, to which he referred the parties for the regulation of their respective rights.

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A special show for prizes offered by the president and fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society was on Tuesday given in the grounds at South Kensington, and, though the third or fourth exhibition this year, it may almost be considered as the first, its predecessors having been simply displays of spring flowers. The advent of summer in all its glorious heat and brightness added the idea that this was in reality a summer show—the only one as yet in which pelargoniums, for example, have made an appearance. The azaleas of Messrs. Veitch and Sons were in perfection, their immense masses of bloom causing no little wonder how plants at once so bulky and so delicate could have been transported in safety, even so short a distance as from King's-road to Kensington. The leading horticulturists above named have again assumed their old position of unapproached supremacy, and have contributed to the Horticultural Society's gathering six as marvellous azaleas as those which they have sent to the Paris Exhibition, where they beat the best that are brought against them. But the triumph of Messrs. Veitch is, as it should be, in their new plants, of which the *Coleus Veitchii* is remarkable for its attainment of a large and perfect growth, while the *Primula Cortusoides* Amena is without doubt the most noteworthy of all the hardy plants exhibited, and the *Mororta Veitchii* is of unrivalled magnificence. Mr. C. Penny, gardener to H. H. Gibbs, Esq., won the first prize for orchids, making a truly splendid show with the rare and beautiful *Oncidium* *Sarcodes*, in very fine blossom; the *Lycaste Skinneri*, bearing twelve perfect flowers; and the *Phalænopsis grandiflora*, which, though grown in a single pot, was evidently two plants, the blooms on one being of a purer and more lustrous white than those on the other. Mr. Williams, of Holloway, made, as he usually does, a noble show of large plants; and especially deserving the commendation it received was his *Phormium tenax* variegata. Mr. Barnes's azalea, named *Her Majesty*, was a striking object in the show; and another contribution worth remarking was the *Iberis* *Carnosa* shown by Messrs. Backhouse and Son, of York. The roses of Messrs. H. Lane and Son, and of Mr. William Paul, of Waltham-cross, vied with each other in size, form, and prodigality of bloom. Mr. C. Turner's strength was chiefly thrown into his fine array of pelargoniums, but in the small display of fruit he came out creditably with Muscat and black Hambro grapes; while a neighbouring show of strawberries by Mr. Merrett, gardener to Henry Whiting, Esq., attracted many admiring eyes and longing palates. In stove and greenhouse plants Messrs. Lee, of Hammersmith, fully sustained their olden celebrity. The grounds, under the careful superintendence of Mr. Eyles, are now beginning to put forth all the beauty of advanced spring and to tell of coming summer. The fountains and cascades were set in full play, and the beauty of the scene was increased by a very full and fashionable attendance, sitting or strolling within sound of the excellent band.

THE LAW WITH REGARD TO THE PARKS.

(From the Times.)

THE law advisers of the Crown, in November, 1856 (Sir Alexander Cockburn, Sir R. Bethell, and Mr. Wille), signed an opinion to the effect that there is a right to close the gates and exclude the public; or, the gates being open, to exclude persons, but that persons who have once entered cannot be turned out without notice that the license is withdrawn.

This opinion is based on the strict analogy of private proprietorship, which tells both ways; for if a private proprietor were to suffer for a series of years the community of a neighbouring town to take the management of his park and lay out large sums on it, upon an express or implied understanding that they should have the enjoyment of it at reasonable hours, he clearly could not suddenly terminate that right of user, if, indeed, he could terminate it at all. He would be held to have granted the modified use for a consideration. The *nullum tempus occurrit regi* doctrine was virtually abolished by 9 Geo. III., cap. 16, which makes sixty years' possession or enjoyment good against the Crown, and the doctrine never applied to cases of supposed or implied dedication or grant. Thus, in the Richmond Park case, a right of way was established against the Crown by user.

In July, 1866, the above-mentioned opinion was submitted to Sir W. Bovill and Sir Hugh Cairns, who were particularly requested to say whether there was any legal authority to disperse by force any meeting for political purposes in the Park.

Their answer was that there is no such authority for any practical purpose.

They state that when persons have once entered the park they can only be ejected after notice served on or brought home to each individually. Publication, they say, is not enough, for many cannot and many would not read, and an express warning must be shown. They particularly impress that the right of removal is a separate right against each individual who has had notice. No force, therefore, can be brought to bear against bodies or masses, which might contain many who have not had notice. They also say that it would not be practicable to remove any number individually and prevent them from returning, and remark on the probability of disorder if even an individual were turned out.

The effect is that the Government have nothing but the common law of trespass to rely upon with its incidents, which are most important. A man who is trespassing must be turned out in the *molitor manus impositus* fashion, no more force than is necessary being used; and he must be let go the moment he has passed the precincts. He cannot be arrested if he is quiet. A police officer cannot go up and threaten to knock him down if he does not go out, and no deadly weapons can be employed. In fact, if persons employed to turn out trespassers were to go armed with deadly weapons, and employ them, except in defence of their own lives, they would be guilty of murder if death were to ensue. If the assembly remain peaceable the police can do nothing but hand out man after man. In no case can they legally clear the park by a charge, and it is most important that this should be known.

The military cannot be legally brought forward except in case of riot, and the Riot Act cannot be read except when people have been "unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assembled to the disturbance of the peace." Even then the military must wait an hour, unless the public proceed to actual insurrection or felonious mischief.

The opinion of Sir Hugh Cairns and Sir W. Bovill expressly states that the contemplated assembly is not of itself unlawful, so long as their conduct is peaceable.

Special constables cannot be sworn in unless oath be made that "tumult, riot, or felony" may be reasonably apprehended, and two justices are of opinion that the ordinary officers appointed for the preservation of the peace are not sufficient for the purpose (1 and 2 William IV., c. 41).

The Commissioners of Works, spending public money, represent the public. The Rangers more properly represent the Crown. All these things are important when we are thrown back upon the technical law of trespass.

ROYAL PARKS AND PLEASURE-GROUNDS.—There are fourteen Royal parks and pleasure-grounds in or about London; the parks being those of Battersea, Bushy, Greenwich, Hampton Court, Kennington, Kensington, Regent's, Richmond, St. James's, Green, Hyde, and Victoria, and the pleasure-grounds of Hampton Court and Kew. The grounds of the hospital and military asylum at Chelsea, with Holyrood Park and Longford River, are also included under the above heading, the total estimate of charges connected with which amounts, for the financial year 1867-8, to £125,326. Of this sum £5095 are paid to the Rangers' departments of Greenwich, Richmond, St. James's, Green, and Hyde Parks, the grounds of the hospital and military asylum at Chelsea costing £1704. Under particulars of extraordinary expenditure appear sums of £1075 for continuation of the river embankment and other works in and round Battersea Park; of £5392 for lighting Primrose-hill, laying out ground opposite the Coliseum, and rebuilding a suspension-bridge over the Regent's Canal; of £16,347 towards the erection of new iron railings and footgates round Hyde Park (which item alone amounts to £10,050), setting back the carriage and foot ways at Stanhope-gate, putting down gas-mains and erecting lamp-posts on four principal roads in Hyde Park, and alterations of the lodge at Stanhope-gate. The estimate is limited to such expenses in the several Royal parks and gardens as are requisite to maintain them for public use, and the income derived from them (which amounted last year to £4807) is paid into the Consolidated Fund.

THE GOVERNMENT BILL RESPECTING MEETINGS IN PARKS.—This bill has on a fly-leaf the words, "Meetings in Royal Parks," which words are followed by the description of the object of the bill—viz., "For the better and more effectually securing the use of certain Royal parks and gardens for the enjoyment and recreation of her Majesty's subjects." The bill is as follows:—"Whereas it is expedient to provide for the better and more effectually securing the use of certain Royal parks and gardens for the enjoyment and recreation of her Majesty's subjects:—Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—1. This Act shall apply to all the Royal parks, gardens, and possessions and the management of which is vested in the Commissioners of her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, and which are situate within the limits of the metropolis. 2. The metropolis shall mean the area for the time being subject to the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Board of Works. 3. No meeting of a public character shall take place or be held without the permission of her Majesty, her heirs and successors, in any of the parks, gardens, and possessions to which this Act applies. 4. Any person convening, or aiding or assisting in convening, any meeting to be held in contravention of this Act (whether such meeting shall be actually held or not), and any person knowingly joining or taking part in any such meeting, contrary to the provisions of this Act, shall be liable to be forthwith arrested, without further warrant or authority, and to be summarily convicted before any magistrate sitting in any police court within the metropolis, and shall, on such conviction, either be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds, or, in the discretion of the magistrate, may be imprisoned for any term not exceeding one calendar month. 5. Nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed to prejudice or affect any prerogative or other right of her Majesty, her heirs or successors, in respect of the said parks, gardens, and possessions. 6. This Act may be cited for all purposes as 'The Meetings in Royal Parks Act, 1867.'"

WORKING MEN'S EXCURSIONS TO PARIS.—A meeting in support of the movement for promoting working men's excursions to Paris, which has been inaugurated by the Metropolitan District Association of Working Men's Clubs and Institutes, was held at the Whitlington Club, on Wednesday night. Mr. Layard, who presided on the occasion, said that the French authorities had expressed the strongest desire to afford facilities to enable English working men to visit the Exhibition, and had placed a large and commodious building at the disposal of the committee for their accommodation. In order to afford every means of ministering to the comfort of the excursionists, it is proposed that they shall go over in batches of two hundred. Mr. Hughes, M.P., supported the undertaking in an excellent speech. Not only is the scheme so good in itself, but the charges are so reasonable—we had almost said so ridiculous—that large numbers of our artisan population, anxious not only to see the splendours of Paris, but to profit by the great international display of arts and manufacture, are certain to avail themselves of this opportunity of gratifying so laudable a desire.

ROYAL VISITORS TO PARIS.—It was originally the intention of the King of Prussia to visit the Paris Exhibition, and in that case he would have been accompanied by Count Bismarck. But his Majesty, it is almost needless to say, has now definitively abandoned his purpose. Notwithstanding, there will be an almost unprecedented gathering of Royal personages in Paris during the present summer. The list will include the Emperors of Russia and Austria, the King and Queen of Spain, the King of Bavaria, and the Viceroy of Egypt.

AMONG CANNIBALS.

MR. CHARLES LIVINGSTONE, her Majesty's Consul in the Bight of Biafra, sends to the Foreign Office the following narrative of his interview with the King of the Okrika country in July, with a view to terminate the war between that country and New Calabar. The Consul was accompanied by three chiefs of Bonny:—Op Okrika, the chief town, is built on a dry ridge, part of which is adorned with magnificent trees. A stockade, through which peep some guns, defends the water front of the town, which seemed longer than Grand Bonny. Dense masses of people crowded the beach at the public landing-place. The Bonny chiefs, Prince George, Banigo, and Calendusi, landed, but we remained in the boats until they had seen the King. In fifteen minutes they returned and beckoned us to land. The stench was terrible; all the stinks at the outskirts of all the African villages I ever entered, though mixed and shaken together, would be weak compared to this. After passing through the crowd, we met some fellows who tried to stop us. 'It was contrary to juju for white men to enter the town,' The Bonny chiefs scolded and we pushed on, but soon met a mob of hundreds, and further progress was impossible. In vain did Banigo and Calendusi scold and push, and even knock some down; the others pressed closer together, shouting, barking, and gesticulating frantically. After looking at the performance until we got tired of it, we returned to the boats. A canoe came off with two messengers from the King, inviting us to come ashore. Guards armed with long sticks stood at the corners of the streets, and the town was quiet. We were conducted to the King's audience-chamber, which had no light except what came in by the door. Chairs were brought, and the chiefs and others crowded in. A beating of drums announced that the King had gone to the juju-house to consult the spirits before proceeding to business. In half an hour King Fibia appeared, a strongly-built man of forty-five, with a round goodnatured looking face. He shook hands and sat down on a low stool in the corner. Apologising for the rude reception his people had given us, he asked us to remain till the following day, as some of his chiefs had not arrived from their villages. A table of native manufacture was brought in, the Queen spread a tablecloth over it, and 'tombo' (an intoxicating palm wine) was presented. Permission to see the town was given, and we paid a visit to the juju-house; a noisy crowd attempted to rush in after us, but a vigorous application of the long sticks of the guards drove them back. Masses of human skulls hang from the walls, and numerous rows of skulls cover the roof of a sort of altar. In front of this altar sat the juju man, having a footstool of human skulls. The Okrika had eaten the victims whose skulls decorate the juju-house. An old man who accompanied us spoke with evident gusto of the different cannibal feasts he had partaken of, and mentioned the parts of the human body which he considered the sweetest. It is the first time I have seen cannibals in Africa. We saw men at work tarring ropes; others retailed gin in the streets by the wine-glass. We had a glimpse of the Okrika funeral ceremony. Three young men, facing the same way, had the corpse of a boy done up in matting on their shoulders. They twisted and tugged, and appeared as if struggling with unseen spirits who wished to drag the body to a shallow open grave by the side of a house. At times the young men had the advantage, and brought the body back from the grave; then the spirits prevailed, and dragged them forward. A man kept beating a drum. The Okrika are well clothed, most of the cloth being made from the palm-leaf. They are acquainted with several vegetable dyes; two—a yellow and a blue—are used to paint their persons. We slept in Ogohome, a large village, which has an oil market, and about two miles from the capital. A good dinner was provided, and we were offered a choice of sleeping apartments—close inner rooms or the open verandah. My companions preferred the latter. I was conducted to a neighbouring house, and found the people very kind. My bed, small boxes (of unequal height unluckily), were in the best room, in which I found a good fire, thirty kegs of powder, and a considerable quantity of cloth and gin. I managed to sleep tolerably well, but my companions were badly bitten by the sand-flies. A King's messenger came for us at sunrise, and shortly after seven we were seated with the King and his chiefs. King Fibia remarked that in Bonny the King and chiefs could settle public affairs, but in Okrika the people always wanted to be present. He thought it would be better to have the interview in a public place, so that his people could hear all that was said, and not have to pester him with questions after we were gone. We accordingly adjourned to the street. There was some disturbance at first, but nothing like that of an excited political gathering in a civilised country. King Fibia requested them to be silent, and listen to what was said. His Prime Minister and orator, having before him specimens of two kinds of dried fish, a fish-trap, and a piece of net, commenced by remarking that they were glad to see me. They did not understand the customs of the white men; no white man had ever been in their town before, and they hoped I would excuse them if they proceeded in their own way. He then picked up the dried fish, the trap and net, and handed them to me, saying, 'Bonny and Calabar have ships to trade with, but Okrika has nothing but fish. It is on fish we live; it is with fish we buy the oil we have to sell, and this has been so ever since Okrika became a country.' It was in the creels I saw in coming that they caught their fish, and Calabar men came into these creels and stole their fish out of the nets, and also robbed their canoes." Mr. Livingstone discussed with them terms of peace, and it was finally arranged that Fibia should send down two of his chiefs to meet the chiefs of Bonny and Calabar and settle the differences. The Consul adds, "The session lasted four hours and a half. Never before in Africa have I seen such powerful-looking men as the Okrika. I could not but admire their physical strength. As they sat before me chewing bits of chop-stick to clean their teeth and gazing earnestly at me, the thought occasionally flashed across my mind, 'Are these cannibals wondering how a piece of roast Consul would taste, and which would be most savoury, cod Consul or hot?' On parting, Fibia made me a present of about a cartload of gigantic yams, two goats, and a fowl."

FIELD MARSHAL BENEDEK lives now at Gratz, in Styria. A few evenings ago a thief broke into the house and carried off all his orders and decorations, some of which were of great intrinsic value. Strangely enough, money and silver plate, which might also have been taken, were left untouched. A love of orders is proverbial in Germany.

REDUCTIONS AT THE INDIA OFFICE.—Not long since several changes and reductions in the above establishment were announced. We have now to add the abolition of the marine and public departments of the India Office, the business being transferred to other departments. Mr. Mason, marine secretary, is pensioned, after many years' service; Mr. Bourdillon, secretary of the public, educational, and ecclesiastical department, is also pensioned; together with several subordinate officials in the secretariat.

A REMARKABLY INTELLIGENT "CONSERVATIVE WORKING MAN."—At the deputation which waited upon Mr. Walpole, on Monday, to intimate the support of the Conservative Association to the Government in preventing the Reform meeting in Hyde Park, a Mr. Bonell was introduced with much éclat as a "genuine working man," and he discoursed as follows:—"de omnibus rebus, &c."—the special subject in hand being the right of public meeting in the parks:—"I find, by looking back to the last time when this question was agitated—namely, 1859—that the committee is nearly the same committee (Mr. Beales left out) as the one which sat on the trades unions in 1859. I was concerned in the fight which took place for the repeal of the corn laws under the late Sir Robert Peel. I think that the most horrible tyranny is exercised over the working men of the metropolis by these unions. I think that it is the most gross system which can ever be practised upon men. From what we have seen since 1859 there are great speculators who have come on, and I think it a hardship that, through the tyranny of these men, employers cannot be got by workmen. I find that Mr. Potter, Mr. Odgers, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Osborn, and Mr. Howell have thought it a great advantage to belong to building societies, and that they have been very charitable; but I have not known them charitable in anything except that on a Saturday night they have given a sixpence or a shilling. They may belong to a benefit society; but nine out of ten do not benefit from it if it is properly looked into. Referring to the rate-book, I find that the guardians of Chelsea have more working men at 8d. than they ever had since Chelsea had a workhouse. We find our own Thames shut up, and that ironwork, which was at 10s. a day, is at from 6s. to 7s.; and that property is shut up, and that we cannot compete with foreigners. I think it hard that there is no law upon the subject. If a lad of eighteen years of age goes on to the building of a fine mansion, he is asked, 'Do you belong to a society?' A firm shut up only three years ago; and when that lad goes to the next job he is asked, 'Do you belong to a society?' If you do not you shall not work here.' I know very well that there are parties who will speak, but I am not afraid of what they will say. I have been amongst such tyranny as that. I think it is time that something was done, and it is impossible to go on with this anarchy in the country, and coercing men who do not belong to a society, and compelling them to join it. I have been a member of a building society, and am now, and pay £2 9s. a month. I do not know one of those working men who belong to it." Mr. Walpole: I think that the observations which this person has been good enough to make to me are of immense importance with reference to another question—namely, as to the Royal Commission, and I can assure him that one of the great objects of that Commission is to see that full justice shall be done to the working men, and every assistance which the working men can give for that purpose will be most willingly received. I thought that this person was going to connect his remarks with this petition. It is for the reception of the petition that we are now met. Mr. Bonell:—"Then we can leave out these other matters. I suppose that, if the meeting is not allowed to be held, the persons will commit the same errors as before against these beautiful flowers which are there. I think that the destruction of that very beautiful property should be prevented. We have taxes enough in the money which is raised by the State, without seeing this property wilfully destroyed. I do sincerely hope that means will be taken to prevent it, and I think there is sufficient cause to do it. That is what I have alluded to in my remarks. I am here, being a working man in the neighbourhood, and having to pay rates to a considerable extent for a working man; and I think that such a thing should be stopped in some way or other, or that the legislation should be altered. In making these remarks I hope that there is nothing out of place in what I have said."

LAW AND CRIME.

Is it illegal to bait rats? The question has been solemnly propounded within the last few days. A contemporary has devoted a leading article to the exposition of the cruelty involved in the procedure. A magistrate has taken time to consider and consult upon the question the statutes, if any. We confess to ignorance of restrictive enactments against the exhibition of rat-killing, by dogs or otherwise. The rat is certainly not a domesticated animal. He is doubtless useful, but his usefulness ceases, certainly, upon his being caught. It is, moreover, desirable that he should, when caught, be destroyed. His appearance and capture denotes, in the individual instance, his superfluity—if one may be permitted to apply to any member of the quadruped creation a noun strictly applicable only to a liquid. The excess of these creatures captured forms an excuse for the assemblage of certain of the lowest orders of "sportsmen," who take delight in viewing their dogs kill the unfortunate rats, and vie, one against the other, in the destructive powers of their canine pets. Say that this is very shocking, or admit that it is not. We admit at once that we have no sympathy with such sport, while we own that it may be very desirable that rats exhibiting themselves as trespassers should be slain; that no better, quicker, or more merciful way of slaying them can be than that provided by Nature in the natural enmity of the dog; that this instinct is to be directed by education from mankind; and, therefore, that it may not be altogether wrong to train dogs to kill rats already caught. There is, moreover, this fact to be considered, that the rat is not, in Europe, an article of human consumption for food. Even the domestic *carnivora* (cats and dogs) chase it only to kill, not to eat; but, if permitted to increase, it would consume human food by the barn-full. Nevertheless, rat-pitting is an amusement of blackguards. Let us, then, change the subject and turn to a gentlemanly sport. Of all the lower animals, next to those friendly to man, such as the dog, horse, camel, elephant, and "necessary cat," the feathered tribes claim at once our highest sympathy and admiration. The dove, of the pigeon genus, has been selected as the embodiment of virtue, the type being chosen for its harmlessness, beauty, and domesticity. We have told of the sport of blackguards. That of some gentlemen is to cause to be imprisoned in wooden fabrics, termed traps, certain of these lovely winged creatures, bred and trained by man. The gentlemen sportsmen, armed with guns of especially large bore, await a signal, upon which the trap is opened, and at a few yards' distance the gentlemen "blaze away." Formerly the trap was opened by a lid, and sometimes the poor pigeon, looking around, instinctively imagined it better to remain in his cell than to attempt a flight. So a new trap was devised, which should, on being opened, fall upon all sides, at once scaring the poor bird and leaving him no shelter. When he flies, startled, the gentlemen fire at him. He may be brought down dead. He may flutter, a dismal wreck with a broken pinion, or leg, or with a pellet or more in a lung or still more sensitive organ, until picked up, after a chase, by the ready, gentle-mouthed retriever, to have his neck wrenched, and to be thrown into a heap of his dead kindred. Or he may, escaping the shot of the sportive "muff," fly beyond bounds (i.e., the railings of the shooting-ground usually attached to some tavern) to be "potted" by the ruffianly gang always skirting the arena of the pigeon-shooting match. If he by any chance escape all these perils, he wings his innocent way homewards, only to be again seized and brought to "trap" on the next occasion. Yet the rat-baiting ruffians are denounced in the very same columns which record pigeon-shooting matches as gentlemanly sport! Is there not something beyond the ridiculous in such a juxtaposition as this? In neither case, it seems to us, are the slaughters of these creatures amenable to law; yet there appears to be, in certain of our contemporaries, and even upon the magisterial bench, if we may judge from a case reported as having occurred at Melksham Petty Sessions (where a man was threatened with gaol for cruelty to a hare), an idea that the law of England prohibits cruelty to animals. It may startle many to assure them that, as a general rule, *the law does nothing of the kind*. An exceptional legislation is afforded in favour of domesticated animals only. There is not any penalty attaching to boiling a live lobster; chopping off the "brush" of a living fox and casting him to be rent to morsels by a pack of hounds; imprisoning a song-bird; letting a cat play with a mouse, or frying live eels.

One morning this week, near Victoria station, Westminster, it happened to us to witness a wild flight of little boys. Each, as he ran, flung down an advertising-board, and the claps, as these fell upon the pavement, sounded like an imitation of a bad volley from a volunteer company. In a minute the reason of this precipitate flight was shown. Two policemen had captured some half dozen urchins of from ten to twelve, evidently part of a larger party which had been sent out to earn a few pence by promenading with "sandwich" advertisements of a music-hall. This style of advertising has, it appears, been recently made illegal. The police picked up the boards flung away by the fugitives, and forced the little weeping captives to carry these to the police station, some half mile distant. While the constables were triumphantly marching off with this grand haul of poor little shrimps, whom a magistrate could scarcely punish, of course the police were removed from their proper beats. Some opportunity was therefore afforded, had it been but known, to a daring class of criminals. Ten minutes afterwards any stout, middle-aged person might have been surrounded and robbed from his hat to his boots, and bawled himself hoarse in a hopeless endeavour to call the police in aid or pursuit. This was an illustration of a radical defect in our police administration—one to which we have repeatedly directed attention as appearing to us to indicate one of the chief causes of the inefficiency of the force. Policemen can scarcely fulfil at one and the same time the functions of parish beaules and omnipresent guardians of the public peace and property. Little boys, tavern-keepers, costermongers, and street-sellers generally are rapidly becoming the exclusive objects of police supervision. Two policemen, last week, occupied their time of public duty on a Sunday afternoon by getting up a case against Mr. Quartermaine, of the Ship Hotel, Greenwich. A party of ladies and gentlemen had been found in the house taking

refreshment between the hours of three and five p.m., as they were legally entitled to do, being travellers. The police obtained a summons against the landlord. It was dismissed by the magistrate, who expressed his surprise that the charge should have been brought before him, as Mr. Justice Erle has already judicially declared the exemption of a traveller in such case to be applicable to persons journeying, whether on business or pleasure, and requiring refreshment. In another case, a landlord of a public-house at Hammersmith was summoned by the police for allowing fighting and disorderly conduct in front of his bar. A gang of roughs had entered his house and commenced brawling, evidently with the intent of bringing the proprietor into a scuffle while they robbed the till. The landlord, prudently enough, refused them liquor, but allowed them to go on with their pretended fight until a policeman arrived, whose aid he sought. The brawlers were sent off, and the landlord summoned. Of course, as the charge was brought before a metropolitan magistrate, it was most properly dismissed. We beg respectfully to suggest to the public, who pay police rates, that they do so rather with the view of protection for person and property than for the supervision of public-houses, street-urchins, costermongers, smoke-nuisances, and the other objects upon which our police are instructed to employ their time. These things should be looked after, no doubt; but surely might be attended to without necessarily absorbing the attention of the public guardians of the peace. In the cases to which we have referred these must necessarily have been withdrawn from more urgent duties—firstly, for the institution of the charge, and, secondly, to appear in support of it—when anyone possessing legal acumen beyond that of a policeman would have known it to be scarcely legally, and certainly not practically, sustainable.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

"MUTE BY MALICE."—John Batts, twenty-three, was indicted for stealing a watch and chain from Charles Cadje. Mr. Straight prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended. On being placed in the dock the prisoner feigned illness, and was perfectly mute. The jury were then asked to say whether he was mute by malice or by the visitation of God, and, after hearing the evidence of Mr. Gibson, the surgeon of Newgate, they found that the prisoner was mute by malice, and the trial proceeded.

It was a simple case of robbery from the person. The prosecutor was walking along Fenchurch-street about eleven o'clock on the night of the 2nd inst., when the prisoner snatched his watch and chain and ran away with them. Police Inspector White was near the spot at the time, heard the cries of "Stop thief!" and saw the prisoner running away. The prisoner, whom he stopped, had then the watch in his possession, which he threw away, but it was picked up and identified by the prosecutor.

A previous conviction having been proved, the prisoner was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The prisoner is the fellow who, on being committed for trial at the Mansion House, tore a piece of leaden piping from his cell, and with this in one hand and a piece of broken glass in the other, set the officers at defiance unless they would accept his capitulation on terms, involving a half-pint of porter. This was at length delivered to him.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THERE has been a full average business doing in the Consol Market this week, and the quotations have had an upward tendency. Consols, for Money, have marked 94½; Ditto, for Account, 94½; Reduced and New Three per Centa, 89½; Exchequer Bills, 20s. to 25s. prem.; Bank of England, 22½ to 23½.

The dealings in Indian Securities have been tolerably numerous, and prices have been well supported. India Stock, 217 to 219; Ditto Five per Centa, 110½; Rupee Paper, 102½ to 103, and 107½ to 108; India Bonds, 47½ to 52½, prem. The demand for second-hand Consols has increased, and the rates of discount have rather advanced. In the open market the quotations for the best paper are as follow:—

Thirty to Sixty Days' 2½ per cent.
Three Months' 2½
Four to Six Months' 3 4
The rates for money in the Stock Exchange are 2 to 2½ per cent.
The movements of the precious metals have been very moderate. The market for Foreign Securities during the week has been in an inactive state, and the quotations are almost entirely without change: Argentine, 71 to 73; Brazilian, 97 to 99; Ditto, 1850, 82½; 66 to 69; Ditto, 1863, 62 to 65; Ditto, 1865, 72 to 73; Chilean, 97 to 100; Ditto, 1860, 101 to 102; Ditto, 1862, 103 to 104; Danish, 1864, 97 to 100; Danubian, 60 to 62; Ditto, 1865, 61 to 63; Egyptian, 81 to 83; Ditto, second issue, 81 to 83; Ditto, 1864, 79 to 81; Ditto, Debitants, 79 to 81; Greek, 13 to 14; Ditto Coupons, 44 to 45; Italian, 1865, 68 to 70; Ditto (Maremma Railway), 51 to 53; Ditto, 1866, 13 to 14; Ditto, 1864, 53 to 103; Moroccan, 33 to 35; New Granada, 13 to 13½; Ditto, 1864, 13 to 13½; Peru, 33 to 35; Ditto, 1864, 13 to 13½; Ditto, 1865, 13 to 13½; Peruvian, 1865, 64 to 66; Ditto, 1862, 72 to 74; Portuguese, 1863, 80, 40 to 41; Russian, 1862, 85 to 87; Ditto, 1860, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1864, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1865, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1866, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1867, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1868, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1869, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1870, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1871, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1872, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1873, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1874, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1875, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1876, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1877, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1878, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1879, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1880, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1881, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1882, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1883, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1884, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1885, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1886, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1887, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1888, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1889, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1890, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1891, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1892, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1893, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1894, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1895, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1896, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1897, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1898, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1899, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1900, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1901, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1902, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1903, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1904, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1905, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1906, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1907, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1908, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1909, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1910, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1911, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1912, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1913, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1914, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1915, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1916, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1917, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1918, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1919, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1920, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1921, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1922, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1923, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1924, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1925, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1926, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1927, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1928, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1929, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1930, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1931, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1932, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1933, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1934, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1935, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1936, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1937, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1938, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1939, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1940, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1941, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1942, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1943, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1944, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1945, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1946, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1947, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1948, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1949, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1950, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1951, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1952, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1953, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1954, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1955, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1956, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1957, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1958, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1959, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1960, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1961, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1962, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1963, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1964, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1965, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1966, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1967, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1968, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1969, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1970, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1971, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1972, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1973, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1974, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1975, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1976, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1977, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1978, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1979, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1980, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1981, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1982, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1983, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1984, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1985, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1986, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1987, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1988, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1989, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1990, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1991, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1992, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1993, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1994, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1995, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1996, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1997, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1998, 85 to 88; Ditto, 1999, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2000, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2001, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2002, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2003, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2004, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2005, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2006, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2007, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2008, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2009, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2010, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2011, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2012, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2013, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2014, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2015, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2016, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2017, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2018, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2019, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2020, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2021, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2022, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2023, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2024, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2025, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2026, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2027, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2028, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2029, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2030, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2031, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2032, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2033, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2034, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2035, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2036, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2037, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2038, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2039, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2040, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2041, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2042, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2043, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2044, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2045, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2046, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2047, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2048, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2049, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2050, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2051, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2052, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2053, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2054, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2055, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2056, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2057, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2058, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2059, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2060, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2061, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2062, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2063, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2064, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2065, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2066, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2067, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2068, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2069, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2070, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2071, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2072, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2073, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2074, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2075, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2076, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2077, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2078, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2079, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2080, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2081, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2082, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2083, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2084, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2085, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2086, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2087, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2088, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2089, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2090, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2091, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2092, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2093, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2094, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2095, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2096, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2097, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2098, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2099, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2100, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2101, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2102, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2103, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2104, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2105, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2106, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2107, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2108, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2109, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2110, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2111, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2112, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2113, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2114, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2115, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2116, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2117, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2118, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2119, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2120, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2121, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2122, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2123, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2124, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2125, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2126, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2127, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2128, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2129, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2130, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2131, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2132, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2133, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2134, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2135, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2136, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2137, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2138, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2139, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2140, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2141, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2142, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2143, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2144, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2145, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2146, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2147, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2148, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2149, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2150, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2151, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2152, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2153, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2154, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2155, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2156, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2157, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2158, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2159, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2160, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2161, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2162, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2163, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2164, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2165, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2166, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2167, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2168, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2169, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2170, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2171, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2172, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2173, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2174, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2175, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2176, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2177, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2178, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2179, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2180, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2181, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2182, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2183, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2184, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2185, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2186, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2187, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2188, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2189, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2190, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2191, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2192, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2193, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2194, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2195, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2196, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2197, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2198, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2199, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2200, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2201, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2202, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2203, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2204, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2205, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2206, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2207, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2208, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2209, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2210, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2211, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2212, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2213, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2214, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2215, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2216, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2217, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2218, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2219, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2220, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2221, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2222, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2223, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2224, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2225, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2226, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2227, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2228, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2229, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2230, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2231, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2232, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2233, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2234, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2235, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2236, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2237, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2238, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2239, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2240, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2241, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2242, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2243, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2244, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2245, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2246, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2247, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2248, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2249, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2250, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2251, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2252, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2253, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2254, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2255, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2256, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2257, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2258, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2259, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2260, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2261, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2262, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2263, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2264, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2265, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2266, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2267, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2268, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2269, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2270, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2271, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2272, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2273, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2274, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2275, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2276, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2277, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2278, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2279, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2280, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2281, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2282, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2283, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2284, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2285, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2286, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2287, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2288, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2289, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2290, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2291, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2292, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2293, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2294, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2295, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2296, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2297, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2298, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2299, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2300, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2301, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2302, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2303, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2304, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2305, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2306, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2307, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2308, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2309, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2310, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2311, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2312, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2313, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2314, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2315, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2316, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2317, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2318, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2319, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2320, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2321, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2322, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2323, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2324, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2325, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2326, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2327, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2328, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2329, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2330, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2331, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2332, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2333, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2334, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2335, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2336, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2337, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2338, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2339, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2340, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2341, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2342, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2343, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2344, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2345, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2346, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2347, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2348, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2349, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2350, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2351, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2352, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2353, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2354, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2355, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2356, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2357, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2358, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2359, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2360, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2361, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2362, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2363, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2364, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2365, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2366, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2367, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2368, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2369, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2370, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2371, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2372, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2373, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2374, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2375, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2376, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2377, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2378, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2379, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2380, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2381, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2382, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2383, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2384, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2385, 85 to 88; Ditto, 2386

London: Printed and Published at the Office, 2, Catherine-street, in the Parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, in the County of MIDDLESEX, by THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1867.